GETTING ACTIVE

Mitsubishi's new ASX brings the Japanese marque back up to spec with discerning drivers

SEE DRIVING, FROM PAGE 77

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Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk May 15, 2011 MID & NORTH KENT EDITION Issue no 451

Jobs hope as turbine firm sets sights on new base

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

SENSATIONAL plans for a huge wind turbine base at the Port of Sheerness will create 2,000 much-needed jobs – if the Government agrees to help the company behind the scheme.

Danish firm Vestas Wind Systems has identified an area the size of 93 football pitches at the old docks as the ideal place for a production centre to build its new supersize wind turbines.

Should the deal go ahead, Kent could receive a boost of 2,000 jobs, news greeted warmly by Kent County Council leader Cllr Paul Carter.

He said: "We welcome this major announcement by Vestas. This will make a massive difference for people by creating new jobs and bringing much-needed income and investment into the local economy.

"We have spent years working in partnership with the private and public sector to bring in the required infrastructure to Sheerness and the island, which has helped Vestas and the Peel Group make this important decision."

But the deal is far from complete, with president of Vestas Offshore, Anders Søe-Jensen looking for support from the Government to help generate business from wind farm firms.

He said: "Before our customers can provide us with the needed order pipeline, they

Continued on page 2

Picture: PAUL JERREAT

A REAL HEROES' WELCOME

■ **ON PARADE:** Soldiers of 5Scots return from duty in Afghanistan **SEE INSIDE FOR FULL STORY**

REGENERATION

Heseltine hints at bad news

LORD Heseltine has hinted that Kent could miss out in the next round of government regeneration grants.

During a visit to Margate he pointed out that Kent's deprived areas were in travelling distance of London, where there were jobs available for the unemployed. **PAGE 3**

TRANSPORT

Cash needed for rail power

INVESTMENT is needed in the railway power supply system if Kent commuters are to be spared winter chaos.

That's the view of an influential Commons committee that looked at the problems suffered by Southeastern passengers during December's cold snap. **PAGE 6**

SPORT

Gills release eight players

THE job of constructing a squad capable of challenging for promotion from League Two next season began at Gillingham this week.

Manager Andy Hessenthaler opted to release eight players out of contract this summer, including the experienced Mark Bentley. **PAGE 88**

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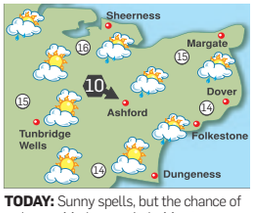

TODAY: Sunny spells, but the chance of a shower. Moderate winds. Max temp 13-16C (55-61F). **TONIGHT:** Dry with clear intervals. Min temp 5-8C (41-46F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	09.51	6.3	22.13	6.6
Margate	10.52	4.5	23.13	4.7
St Mary's	03.21	5.3	15.50	5.4

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 17C	Min
Tuesday	Max 17C	Min 9C
Wednesday	Max 16C	Min 8C
Thursday	Max 17C	Min 7C
Friday	Max 16C	Min 7C
Saturday	Max 16C	Min 7C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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JOBS

Wind turbine jobs boost 'in the hands of policy-makers'

Continued from front page

need to see stability in the market and a long-term political and regulatory certainty that ensures their business case.

"Making that happen lies in the hands of the policy-makers, so we are looking forward to seeing the UK government providing the best possible terms for the offshore wind industry to truly take off, and the potential new jobs becoming a reality."

The new supersized V164-7.0MW turbine model is twice as powerful as the turbines that currently sit off the coast of Thanet, and its blade span is the same size as the London Eye.

The news has come as a timely boost after pharmaceutical giant Pfizer revealed it would be closing its base in Sandwich with a loss of 3,300 jobs.

The Sheppey site was said to be in the perfect position to allow wind turbines to be transported all across Europe.

KCC economics chief Cllr Kevin Lynes, added: "We look forward to working further with Vestas and Peel Ports at Sheerness and our other Kent-based offshore wind investors to help develop the supply chain which should create jobs.

"Renewable energy is fast becoming the economy of the future and Kent needs to be at the forefront. This is a win-win for local people, local business and the county."

■ **For more on Vestas' plans, see Business Week on page 33.**

HOMECOMING

Proud city welcomes returning troops

By Mathew Beech
mathew.beech@archant.co.uk

HUNDREDS of people welcomed home troops returning from Afghanistan during a parade through Canterbury.

The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland (5Scots) marked their return to the UK by marching from their barracks in the city to Canterbury Cathedral on Thursday.

The parade also served as a memorial to Private Joseva Vatubua, who was killed on January 1.

The day began with a ceremony at Howe Barracks, where the soldiers received Afghanistan campaign medals.

The troops, in full ceremonial dress with bayonets fixed, were led by the battalion pipes and drums, as well as the Regimental Military Band and the regimental mascot, a Shetland pony named Cruachan III.

A service was then held in Canterbury Cathedral.

Maidstone is also preparing to welcome troops back from Afghanistan at this year's Civic and Freedom Parade on Sunday, May 22.

The parade will mark the start of a new mayoral year and the troops of the 36 Engineer Regiment will be exercising their freedom of the borough.

Pictures: PAUL JERREAT

MEMORIAL PARADE: Bayonets fixed, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders are cheered by crowds as they march through the city

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FUNDING

Kent may miss out on cash because of jobs in city, says Heseltine

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

TORY grandee Lord Heseltine has hinted that Kent may continue to miss out on government funding, due to the county's close proximity to London.

Announcing the launch of the second phase of the £1.4 billion Regional Growth Fund (RGF) at a business roadshow in Margate, the former Deputy Prime Minister revealed the scheme was more about ensuring people have access to jobs than regenerating certain towns.

His comments suggest bids from Kent may be at a disadvantage, due to the large amount of jobs available in London.

Lord Heseltine said: "We've got to deal with areas of the country which are disproportionately affected by the cuts and where the private sector is not bouyant or large enough to cope.

"There are pockets of deprivation in the South East, and I wouldn't have had a roadshow here in Margate if I didn't recognise that.

"We are interested in seeing what bids come out of this sort of location, but we will still have to take into account things like travel-to-work area.

"You can take an area of deprivation where the figures indicate significant problems, but part of the problem is that people sometimes aren't willing to travel out of those areas into areas where there are jobs, like London.

"But it's not possible to give a black-and-white answer.

"We all know the South East is by and large the most prosperous part of the UK, but you then have to look beneath the generalisation and see if there should be support for certain areas."

Lord Heseltine is chairman of the RGF independent advisory panel, which will consider all bids for funding and make recommendations to a team of ministers led by Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg about which of the bids should be supported.

Not a single Kent application was approved following the first round of bids – worth a total of £450m – with only one in the whole of the Kent, Essex and East Sussex Local Enterprise Partnership area being successful.

The second round, which aims to allocate the remaining £950m of the fund, opened to bids on April 12 and will close at noon on July 1.

Lord Heseltine said: "I wouldn't have come here (to Margate) unless I thought that there might be bids from places like this, and that they would be fairly considered, but then there are coastal towns all over England.

"The second point is that just because I have come here doesn't mean this place will be preferred.

"There will be a lot of bids for a finite sum of money."

PURSE STRINGS: Lord Heseltine

NEWS IN BRIEF

M20 closes for work

MOTORISTS are being urged to avoid the M20 in Ashford this weekend when it closes to allow a new bridge to be put into place.

The section between junction nine and 10 will be closed from 6pm on Saturday, until 5am on Monday, while a new footbridge is installed close to the Ashford West turn off.

Motorists have been asked to use the A2 and M2, with overhead signs diverting Port of Dovertraffic.

Waste centre agreed

PROPOSALS for an energy park and waste recycling service next to the disused Richborough power station for east Kent householders and business has won planning permission.

Spencer Ray, director of family-owned TW Services which is behind the scheme, said: "Planning permission for our site means we are moving rapidly towards zero waste to landfill."

The site is expected to generate 80 jobs and will handle 750,000 tonnes of waste each year. including municipal, commercial and hazardous.

Dye sheep for safety

KENT'S sheep farmers are being told to dye their stock in a bid to scare off rustlers.

The advice comes from Kent Lib Dem Euro MP Sharon Bowles, who said there had been a five-fold increase in the number of sheep thefts this year due to the recession and the high price of lamb.

Stolen sheep are often butchered at unlicensed abattoirs, most of which do not comply with food safety regulations, and then sold to unsuspecting consumers.

TECHNOLOGY

Digital switchover heralds 'a new era in broadcasting'

DATES have been announced for the big switchover from analogue to digital TV, signalling the start of a new era in broadcasting.

Changes will begin on June 13, 2012, in south, east, north and mid Kent, with BBC Two analogue being switched to digital, with the remaining channels – BBC One, ITV1, Channel 4 and Channel 5 – turned off on June 27 that year.

Switchover will start in Tunbridge Wells on May 30, 2012, with completion on June 13.

Thousands of homes currently in digital blackspots, such as Canterbury, Ashford and Margate, will be able to receive Freeview channels for the first time once the county is switched over.

Relay transmitters in Dover, Bluebell Hill and Tunbridge Wells will broadcast about15 TV channels through households' Freeview boxes, including BBC One, BBC Two, ITV1, Channel 4 and Channel 5, plus associated services such as ITV2 and BBC Three.

Digital UK and the Switchover Help Scheme are preparing to launch a public information campaign to help viewers.

People aged 75 and over and residents on certain disability benefits or registered blind, are entitled to practical help, and for £40 will be given digital equipment which can be installed and demonstrated.

Those on income-related benefits are entitled to free help.

Digital UK's assistant regional manager for the region Tony Gray said: "The digital switchover will bring digital TV to more than 100,000 homes in Kent and East Sussex for the first time and the announcement paves the way for a new era in broadcasting for viewers in the South East.

"We are preparing for the end of analogue and the dawn of a fully digital age in which everyone can enjoy extra choice and easier recording from the television."

South Thanet MP Laura Sandys said: "As so many of our residents know, we have bad to no TV reception in some areas of Thanet and Sandwich.

"It is crucial that the switchover delivers a service that our residents deserve and pay for through their licence fee."

ANOTHER AGE: Doctor Who will be regenerated in all his digital glory after the switchover

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ADULT SOCIAL CARE

Thousands of care-users face hikes in charges as part of council savings plan

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

MORE than 5,000 elderly and disabled people could be affected by plans to raise the cost of providing adult social care in Kent.

The county council wants to increase the amount of available income taken into account when working out how much to charge a person, while also asking mental health patients to contribute for the first time.

It also plans to include day care and transport as part of the services that can be charged for, in an attempt to save about £2.9 million a year.

Announcing the launch of a 12-week consultation into the proposals, KCC cabinet member for adult social care Cllr Graham Gibbens said the authority "had to do what was best ahead of what was popular".

He added: "The extra money from new and increased charges means more people will be able to get services they need. These are services that could help people stay out of hospital or residential care.

"This, together with keeping eligibility criteria at moderate, means the council is able to get support to more people.

"Changes are also needed to the way charges work to make them fairer. At the moment people can be treated differently depending on the type of service they choose to meet their needs. Any inequality in the system should be removed if possible."

Plans to increase the cost of adult social care were agreed as part of the council's budget earlier this year, and now the authority has sent letters to more than 20,000 service-users, relatives, and other organisations asking for their views.

KCC says those eligible to pay for their care will be individually assessed to determine how much they can afford to contribute.

SAVINGS: Adults receiving social care face higher County Hall bills

How much individuals may pay will vary but the council says it intends to increase the amount of available income taken into account from 85 per cent to 100 per cent.

Ros Altmann, director-general of the Folkestone-based Saga group for the over-50s, welcomed KCC's decision to continue to fund people with moderate care needs while many other councils have restricted financial support to only those with severe or critical needs.

> **Sometimes the council has to do what is best ahead of what is popular. These services could help people stay out of hospital.**
>
> CLLR GRAHAM GIBBENS

She added: "We've got to be realistic – lots more older people means lots more money to be spent, and that money has to come from somewhere. I don't think it's unreasonable to ask some people to pay more if they can afford to.

"If they didn't put the charges up then they would probably have to tell some people who don't have severe or critical needs that they can't have anything, and that could lead to further problems down the line."

Jill Roberts, chief executive of mental health charity Sevenoaks Mind, said she was concerned about people with mental health problems being charged for the first time.

She said: "It may act as a disincentive for them to access the help they need to recover. Motivation can be a real issue when people are very mentally distressed, and if people are put off from accessing help it could be less cost-effective in the long run."

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TRANSPORT

Call for more investment to improve winter rail services

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

TRANSPORT chiefs have said the Government should investment more money to improve the resilience of Kent's power network for trains.

The 'third rail' system, which is cheaper than running overhead lines, sees a rigid conductor rail alongside the track to provide electricity to trains.

But during winter conditions, the free-standing rail is prone to freezing, causing rail services to grind to a halt as they did in December.

Although de-icing equipment is used to help tackle the problem, it did not go far enough last winter and chaos ensued at stations across the county, with passengers stranded on platforms and in trains.

In a report to Government this week, the Transport Select Committee, made up of cross-party MPs, recommended investment to improve the reliability of the line with a long-term aim to install a more resilient method of electrification.

Network Rail's director of operations and customer service, Robin Gisby, said people needed a reliable and punctual train service.

WINTER OF DISCONTENT: Many trains were halted when the third rail froze

"In the last three years, Britain has experienced particularly harsh winter weather, which resulted in some passengers having their journeys severely disrupted," he said.

"The industry continues to work hard to deliver more than £40 million of improvements in time for next winter which we hope will add much-needed resilience to the network and allow passengers to make their journeys during winter with minimal disruption."

A number of initiatives are being rolled out, including conductor rail heating where heating strips have been installed along the line at 42 locations in Kent, with more being put in place.

Anti-icing units are also being fitted to 20 passenger trains in time for next winter, which will spray de-icing fluid on the conductor rail, and carriages are being specifically designed that clear ice and snow from the railway.

Longer-term options involve an alternative to the current third rail system, including the use of overhead lines.

Operator Southeastern welcomed the report, while transport chiefs on the committee called for a culture of change in the rail industry.

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News

ART

Turner to display the nation's favourite kiss

By James Reid
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

Picture: TATE LONDON

ICONIC: Turner Contemporary will exhibit Rodin's The Kiss

ONE of the world's most famous works of art – Auguste Rodin's The Kiss – is to go on display at Margate's Turner Contemporary gallery.

The life-size marble sculpture, created by the French artist in 1889, will be at the Sunley Gallery from October 4-September 2, 2012.

The sculpture is on loan from the Tate collection and is one of the most iconic images of sexual love. The Kiss was voted the nation's favourite work of art in a 2003 poll.

The embracing couple come from a true 13th century story of forbidden love, which was immortalised in Dante's Inferno and by many artists since.

The couple are the adulterous lovers Paolo Malatesta and Francesca da Rimini, who were slain by Francesca's outraged husband. They appear in Dante's Inferno, which describes how their passion grew as they read the story of Lancelot and Guinevere together.

At the time, the perceived eroticism of Rodin's sculpture was controversial, leading to instances where the work was removed from public view.

The sculpture's arrival coincides with Turner Contemporary's second major exhibition Nothing in the World But Youth, which explores how youth experience has been reflected in art, culture and the media since the late 19th century to the present day and will feature paintings, photographs, items of clothing and early JMW Turner works, many depicting east Kent.

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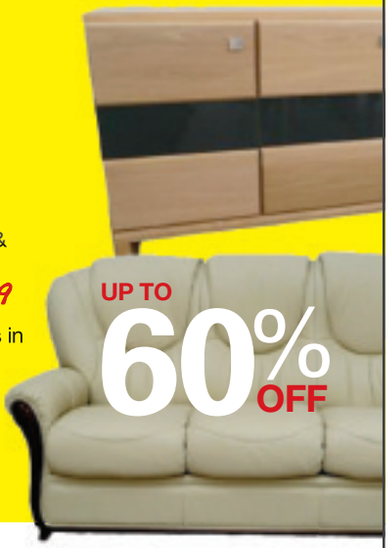

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ELECTION RESULTS

Labour victory a small dent in

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

THE battle for supremacy in Kent produced a mixed bag of results at last week's local elections.

Labour and the Conservatives sent big names to the county ahead of polling day, including Prime Minister David Cameron, Chancellor George Osborne and opposition leader Ed Miliband.

The move paid off for both parties, with the Tories tightening their grip on the majority of councils and Labour winning control of Gravesham and pushing their rivals close in Thanet and Dover.

But it was a disastrous election for the Liberal Democrats, who saw their support crumble throughout Kent and the rest of the UK.

Many of the party's members are now calling for the head of leader Nick Clegg as a result, blaming his role in the Coalition as the reason for their downfall.

Kent's voters also answered a resounding No to the Alternative Vote system.

SUPPORT: The majority of Kent voters still appear to back David Cameron as PM

Conservatives

THE Conservatives tightened their grip on Kent with all but five of the county's 13 councils recording an increase in the number of elected Tories.

Despite widespread concern over government spending cuts, the results suggest that the majority of Kent voters still support David Cameron as Prime Minister.

However, the Tories lost control of Gravesham and recorded fewer councillors in Swale and Dover.

In addition, the party no longer has overall control of Thanet council and must rely on the support of three independents to back cabinet proposals.

Leader Cllr Bob Bayford said a five per cent increase in the Labour vote had given the opposition a disproportionate increase in seats.

He added: "The voters still recognise that the last Labour government left this country in a dire financial state.

"Our priority now is to continue to work hard for all the people of Thanet by delivering excellent services, pursuing our positive vision for the area while ensuring financial prudence on behalf of our council taxpayers."

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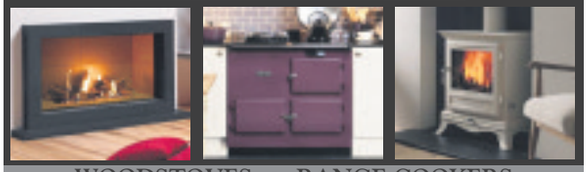
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Conservatives' grip on councils

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LABOUR leader Ed Miliband paid a celebratory visit to Gravesham after his party made a small step towards recovery in Kent.

The Conservatives currently hold every Parliamentary seat in the county and before last week also had control of all 14 local authorities, including Kent County Council.

But with Gravesham now representing a small patch of red in a sea of blue, Mr Miliband is predicting better days ahead for Labour.

CELEBRATING: Labour leader Ed Miliband was in Gravesham

He said: "North, south, east and west, Labour is making gains and coming back.

"I say this to David Cameron and Nick Clegg – you must listen to the people.

"I am determined that we will be the people's voice in every part of Britain. Our victory here is both a sign of our progress and a symbol of our task ahead."

Labour also ran the Tories close in Thanet – where they now have just one less councillor than their opponents – and in Dover, where they gained four seats.

Liberal Democrats
Winning Here

ANGRY Liberal Democrats called for party leader Nick Clegg to resign following a disastrous night at the polls.

Support for the party crumbled in districts across Kent, with the Lib Dems losing six seats in Shepway, six in Canterbury, five in Sevenoaks and four in Medway.

Mr Clegg – the Deputy Prime Minister – has been heavily criticised for his role alongside the Conservatives in the Coalition, and for backing controversial policies such as the increase in university tuition fees.

Former Shepway councillor for the Folkestone Cheriton ward, Peter Carroll, who chose not to stand in the election, said: "The Coalition is not working for the Lib Dems. People think we're part of the Tories, which we're not.

"I think the Shepway results are a tragedy. Some fantastic local councillors have been lost, through no fault of their own."

Sam Matthews, who failed to win a seat for the Lib Dems in Shepway, wrote on his Twitter page: "Clegg goes or I go."

RESIGNATION CALL: Deputy PM Nick Clegg

Meanwhile, Lib Dem member Dave Banks lost his seat on Swale council after his opponent's name was drawn out of a hat.

Both Mr Banks and his Conservative rival Ed Gent received 420 votes, with six recounts failing to separate the two.

OTHERS

UKIP led the way for the smaller parties in Kent after winning its first seat in the county.

Victor Webb was elected to Tunbridge Wells council after earning 634 votes in the Rusthall ward, with a campaign against the development of 38 sites in the borough.

Meanwhile, members of the Ashford Independent Party admitted they were disappointed to have only won five of 32 seats contested there.

The BNP lost its only seat in Kent – on Sevenoaks council – after deciding not to field a candidate in place of Paul Golding, who resigned last February.

ALTERNATIVE VOTE

VOTERS in Kent sent a loud and clear message that they do not support a change to the Alternative Vote electoral system.

Not one of the county's 14 districts recorded a positive response.

Only Canterbury (33.36) recorded more than 30 per cent of Yes votes, with the remainder posting results of between 24 and 29 per cent.

Nationally some 12.57 million people – almost 70 per cent of those who voted – said they would prefer to stick with the current first-past-the-post system.

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EDUCATION

Changing face of schools sparks fears for future

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A MAJOR shift in Kent's schooling system is under way as the number of academies soars and plans for new 'free schools' are drawn up.

Latest figures from the Department for Education (DfE) revealed 29 academies had opened since September, 2010, with the total – including those in the process of changing, plus old-style academies – reaching 59; half of the secondary schools in Kent.

In addition to the academy system, groups in Maidstone, Ashford and Kings Hill are preparing plans to open 'free schools' – a system introduced by the Government to allow parents, charities or companies to set up all-ability state-funded schools in response to local need.

Future Schools Trust, which runs Maidstone's New Line Learning Academy and the Cornwallis Academy, is proposing a free primary school.

Dr Chris Gerry, one of the people behind the plans, said community feedback had been positive, and it was likely a formal application would be submitted to the DfE before the end of the month.

"We will hear in autumn if we are successful and can proceed to the next stage," he said. "Key propositions are a longer day if parents want this, from 7.30am to 6pm; teaching of Mandarin and a musical instrument to all; abacus teaching of maths; additional after school games, music and drama."

A feasibility study is also being carried out for a free school in Ashford, at the site of the former Wye College, with about 400-600 pupil places for children aged 11-18.

A group of parents have joined together to work on the proposals.

PLEASE, SIR: Plans for free schools

"We believe there is a need for a new secondary school in Wye," a spokesman said. "As Ashford town centre continues to grow and more primary schools open, secondary school places in the area are in increasing demand.

"It is our intention that Wye College School becomes an educational centre of excellence.

"We do not believe academic achievement is the only goal to aspire to, and the focus of the school would be to guide pupils to achieve in what ever path they have chosen, and to prepare them for their careers."

With the number of academies rising and bids for free schools emerging, Gravesend-based education adviser, Peter Read, warned that a fragmented education system was being created.

"My personal opinion is that overall provision will suffer severely, and I fear for the future," he said. "This is creating fragmented provision where it will differ in each area."

He added: "I think academies are becoming self-interested in their own development and not for the benefit of the children.

"I believe within a year every secondary school will be a self-controlled institution and there will be no systematic provision."

If all secondary schools become academies or free schools, Kent County Council would be become a provider of education services, rather than the controlling schools authority.

Kent Labour spokesman Paul Clark, former MP for Gillingham and Rainham, said the system would put greater pressure on schools under local authority control.

"Taking money out of the pot to give to free schools and academies is going to undermine provision within other schools," he said.

For a list of academies and information on free schools go to www.kentadvice.co.uk.

Offer ends 30/06/2011. Free for the first 3 months, £13 a month thereafter (usual price is £7 a month for the first 3 months , then £14 from month 4), plus BT line rental £13.60 a month (rising to £13.90 on 28/04/11) with Direct Debit. 18 month minimum term. New BT Total Broadband customers only. Package includes BT Total Broadband Option 1, Unlimited Evening & Weekend Plan and a BT Home Hub (unless BT has already provided you with a Hub). Payment by Direct Debit and £5 p&p charge for Hub required. Subject to availability, terms and conditions. *Means calls of up to an hour to numbers beginning 01, 02 & 03, excluding Channel Islands. Other exclusions apply. Calls to 0871 numbers will cost no more than 10.2ppm plus 11.5p set-up fee (rising to 12.5p on 28/04/2011); calls to 070 no more than 51ppm, with a maximum set-up charge of 51p. See www.bt.com/personal/pricing.

SAFETY

Stranger alert for village children

PARENTS are being urged to reinforce stranger danger to their children after reports of a man acting suspiciously in Lenham.

Police were called on May 6 after a group of young people reported concerns about a man in the village. On May 12 a girl said she had been followed by a man fitting the same description, who asked her for money.

Kent Police said the incidents were not being linked to the attempted abductions in Hawkhurst, Braebourne Leas and Rye between March 31 and May 6.

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FundRaising Standards Board

7/7 INQUEST

'Greatest opportunity missed' to learn from 7/7

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A SURVIVOR of the London bombing has accused the coroner at the 7/7 inquests of missing the "greatest opportunity" to make a difference to the future security of the UK.

Beverli Rhodes, from Kennington near Ashford, branded a report by Lady Justice Hallett, which set out nine recommendations aiming to "save lives", as "woolly".

The 49-year-old, a former counter-terrorism expert for security firm Capita Symonds, said she felt much of the report simply stated the obvious.

She said: "Lady Justice has missed the single greatest opportunity to come from the atrocities of 7/7.

"She could have kicked-off a new cycle of additional security measures, removed the endless red tape in the face of an attack and recommended a process for dealing with survivors and bereaved in the best possible way."

She added: "I feel there have been no plans made for the future despite what's happened with Bin Laden and the threat of revenge attacks from Al Qaeda."

Lady Justice Hallett, who formally recorded a verdict of unlawful killing for the 52 people who were killed in the terrorist attacks on London in 2005, also stated in her report that delays in the emergency service response had not contributed to any of the deaths.

But Mrs Rhodes said: "Look at any paramedic – they all say the quicker you get to a survivor the more chance they have.

"Lady Justice Hallett should have taken more of the survivors' testimonies into account to look at what was happening in our own underground battleground."

Mrs Rhodes was one of the hundreds caught up in the atrocities of six years ago when 52 people were killed and 700 injured after three tube trains and a bus were blown up by Islamic extremists inspired by Al Qaeda leader, Osama Bin Laden.

She was travelling to work on the underground train blown up near King's Cross station.

The grandmother-of-two was about to get off when she was thrown forward into a pole and knocked unconscious in the blast.

As well as severe injuries to her face she suffered injuries to her chest and leg.

Another Kent victim of the bombings was Philip Russell, 28, who was killed in the bus bombing at Tavistock Square days before his 29th birthday.

SECURITY MEASURES: Beverli Rhodes says no plans have been made to prevent future attacks

His parents, who live in East Peckham, said their son lived his life "doing the deeds of a true gentleman".

Following the inquest verdict, his father Grahame told reporters there were still issues and concerns but he had to let go of them to avoid becoming bitter.

He said he hoped the coroner's recommendations could help people in the future, but said they did not bring his son back.

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MUSIC

Sugababes added to Demelza charity show

GIRL group the Sugababes are the latest big name to be added to the bill for the Music on the Hill event next month.

The group will join McFly on Saturday, June 25, for the event at Kings Hill, in aid of Demelza Hospice Care for Children and the Children's Development Trust.

The three-day event starts with Katherine Jenkins on the Friday night, and there is a family fun day on the Sunday.

CHARITY

George, 11, walking 22 miles to help heroes

ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD George Taylor is organising a 22-mile walk in aid of the Royal British Legion's planned £50 million BattleBack Centre.

George and his family will be walking on July 16 from Northfleet to the RBL Village in Aylesford.

They are asking people to sponsor them to do the walk in aid of the Royal British Legion's BattleBack Centre.

George said: "When I walk, I will also be thinking of my cousin, Ryan Fletcher, who was in the Navy when he died."

The BattleBack Centre will be a national centre of excellence for activity-based rehabilitation to help wounded, injured and sick Armed Forces personnel regain their fitness.

COURTS

Law students 'can't cover for government cuts to legal aid'

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

LAW students should not be expected to cover for cuts to legal aid funding, says the director of Kent's award-winning law clinic.

The Ministry of Justice aims to cut the legal aid bill by £350 million over four years, with family cases including child access, domestic disputes and divorce expected to be hardest hit.

Kent Law School offers a pro bono (voluntary) service to residents in need, but director John Fitzpatrick says students should not be relied upon to cover for the reduction in funding as they already have a full caseload.

"The danger is that as legal aid funding recedes and it becomes more difficult for people to get help, they will rely more on pro-bono services such as ours," he added.

"But we are always at breaking point and certainly wouldn't want to be seen as being able to take up any of the slack by legal aid funding not being available. We don't want to become the safety net.

"We are an educational establishment first and foremost – not a legal service.

"We have a first-come, first-served protocol and will only take on cases if we have the staff and expertise available."

ROUGH JUSTICE: Kent Law School says legal aid cuts will put pressure on pro bono services

Last March Kent Law School – part of the University of Kent – won best law school at the annual LawWorks and Attorney General student pro-bono awards.

One of the reasons for its victory was the way in which it weaves pro-bono work into its syllabus, with students encouraged to base their dissertations on issues arising from real-life cases on which they have acted.

For example, in September last year the clinic helped win £44,000 in compensation for a Ramsgate bar manager who was wrongfully dismissed after suffering racist abuse.

Under plans announced by the Government last year, legal aid will only be made routinely available in cases where an applicant's life or liberty is at stake.

The proposals, intended to reduce an annual bill of £2 billion, is thought likely to reduce the number of civil legal aid cases by 500,000.

But Prof Fitzpatrick said he thought the planned cuts were too great

He added: "Legal aid is expensive but a society that values the role of law must also value access to that law. As far as I'm concerned, it's a price worth paying."

■ **Visit yourcanterbury.co.uk to read all the local news and sports headlines, updated daily.**

INSPIRATIONAL SHOW GARDENS - OPENING Sat 21st MAY

It was called a mini Chelsea Flower Show and it's being extended for a second year, with three new gardens - and the four existing ones revamped, so there'll be even more to see.

TV celebrity gardener Joe Swift will officially open*the gardens on 21st May from 12noon - gates open at 11.00am and close at 4.00pm. (After this the gardens can be viewed during normal opening hours).

Come and get some inspiration for your own garden projects - Meet the designers and talk to them about their winning designs.
There will be a Farmers market with locally produced food & drinks, plants for sale and wonderful lunches available. FREE parking.

For more info and opening times log on to: www.jacksons-fencing.co.uk/showgardens

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Model shown is the Swift SZ2 3 door M/T available at £9,995* on the road (metallic paint at £399).

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CRIME

Thieves target catalytic converters, warn police

OFFICERS are warning residents that there has been a surge of catalytic converter thefts, often taking place in broad daylight.

Just on Saturday, May 7, five catalytic converters were stolen in Medway.

Det Con Richard Taylor said: "Our officers will be patrolling car parks on the look-out for the thieves.

"We believe that these criminals are organised and professional, carrying out the offences quickly in broad daylight.

"I would like to ask people to be mindful that this kind of offence is occurring and contact police if they are suspicious of people working on vehicles in public car parks or acting as though they have dropped items under them."

WILDLIFE

Rescue operation for the ducklings stuck in a drain

FIFTEEN ducklings were reunited with their mother by firefighters last Sunday after they became stuck in a drain in Brielle Way, Sheerness.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service helped the stricken baby birds after a passerby noticed their plight.

When station manager Stuart Beadle arrived at the scene he found the mother duck sitting on top of the drain with her 15 youngsters floating on the water 2ft beneath her. The heavy drain cover had to be lifted and the fire crew from Sheppey fire station were called to help.

Mr Beadle said: "It appeared one of the ducklings had made their way down the drain and the others followed. At first the mother wouldn't let me anywhere near because she was protecting her babies, but it was clear her brood needed help."

COMPETITION

WIN Season 4 box sets of Ice Road Truckers

THE Ice Road Truckers kick into high gear as Season Four of the hit HISTORY™ show returns for more pedal-to-the-metal action.

The highest-rated series on HISTORY™ is back, and the stakes are higher than ever in Ice Road Truckers: The Complete Season 4 as the big rig heroes once again brave the infamous Dalton highway, the deadliest road in North America.

This time though, Alaska's most fearsome highway is only the beginning as the truckers head beyond the Dalton to take on the frozen rivers of the icy outback.

And you can enjoy all the action as we have five DVD sets to give away, each containing all 16 episodes of Ice Road Truckers Season 4.

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To enter, text TRUCKERS (space) answer, name and address and send to 64343.

Texts cost £1 plus standard network rates, and entries received after the closing date of May 24, 2011, will not be counted but you may still be charged. The service provider is JMedia UK Ltd, SE1 0QX, telephone 0844 800 1188.

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News

TRAVEL

Manston turns up heat with summer schedule

By James Reid
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

MADEIRA, Italy and Portugal are among the sunshine destinations in Manston Airport's summer 2011 schedule.

The first summer flight took off to Lake Garda in Italy last weekend, with further charter flights to Lake Garda on July 10 and September 4, to Croatia on May 16 and September 26, to Portugal on May 23, and Naples on October 8.

Tour operator Discover Jersey has flights every Saturday to the Channel Island between May 14 and September 17, while Atlantic Holidays offers Madeira on June 13 and 20.

Also, there is Flybe's daily scheduled service to Edinburgh, plus its new route to Belfast City which starts May 26.

Manston Airport's chief executive officer Charles Buchanan said: "This is the largest number of sunshine destinations we have ever offered local holidaymakers.

SUNSEEKING: Manston chief Charles Buchanan says its summer schedule is the largest the airport has ever offered holidaymakers

"From charming Croatia to relaxing Jersey, people in Kent now have a great choice of holidays at the lowest prices – all accessible from Kent's own airport.

"Madeira is very popular this year. It has just about the most perfect climate – it's never too hot and averages a maximum of 24°C during the summer months and a minimum of 17°C during the winter.

"One of the safest holiday destinations in the world, it's just 35 miles long by 13 miles wide and occupies a superb position in the Atlantic Ocean.

"Only three hours away from Manston, and with excellent flight times, our new service will appeal both to Kent families wanting a high-quality package holiday and to those who want flight-only to get out to their timeshare."

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Do you want to find out more about your local NHS services in the community?

On 26 May 2011, Kent Community Health NHS Trust will be holding their next public Board meeting.

Start time is 9:30am and finishing at 12:30pm.

Location: Boardroom 2, Preston Hall, Aylesford, ME20 7NJ

Copies of the Board Papers will be available on our website from 19 May 2011, please visit www.kentcht.nhs.uk.

For questions relating to the Board Meeting please contact Jill Mackenzie on 01233 667840 or email jill.mackenzie@eastcoastkent.nhs.uk

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CHILD PROTECTION

Shake-up of care system would give social workers time with children

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

A PROPOSED shake-up of the UK child protection system has been cautiously welcomed by the councillor charged with turning around Kent's crisis-hit department.

Social policy expert Professor Eileen Munro concluded in a review for the Government that frontline social workers should regain the freedom to decide what is best for children, and that a reduction in the current high level of bureaucracy is needed to strengthen measures aimed at preventing another Baby P tragedy.

Kent County Council is rebuilding its child protection service after an Ofsted inspection last year revealed vulnerable youngsters were at risk of harm, due to severe failings in several key areas of the department.

Jenny Whittle, cabinet member for specialist children's services, agreed that cutting red tape was necessary.

"There's a massive amount of recording that social workers have to do," she said. "They should be freed up to spend more time developing relationships with vulnerable children and families.

"We need to make sure we are recording what we need without bureaucracy getting in the way.

"One of the problems with our own child protection service was that we introduced a recording system that was very slow. We've now introduced a series of short-term fixes to speed up the process."

The Government is investing £80 million in child protection reforms this year, and Education Secretary Michael Gove asked Professor Munro to focus on whether red tape and targets have been getting in the way of good practice.

The expert from the London School of Economics recommended scrapping centrally-prescribed timescales for procedures such as social work assessments, but Cllr Whittle said she did not agree.

She added: "If you don't have timescales then you risk losing discipline."

Cllr Whittle was also disappointed the Munro report made no mention of problems in the court system.

She said: "The judicial system does not trust the judgements of social workers, and I hope that will change if they are allowed to spend more time with vulnerable families."

TRAGEDY: The death of Baby P lead to a review of child protection cases

One of the findings of the Munro report was that social workers did not stay on the frontline long enough to become "really good" at the job.

Cllr Whittle said: "Good social workers are promoted quickly and taken off the frontline. We need a role that's recognised nationally so the best staff can continue to work with families."

News

CRIME

Jail for teenager found with loaded gun and clown mask on train

By James Reid
editorial@archant.co.uk

ARREST: Mitchell Woods was found to be carrying a clown mask and a loaded pistol when he was stopped on a train at Higham

A TEENAGER caught carrying a loaded semi-automatic pistol and a frightening clown mask has been jailed for three years.

Mitchell Woods, 17, of Thrasher Close, Haggerston, east London, was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court on Monday, May 9, after pleading guilty to possessing a prohibited firearm and possessing ammunition without a certificate.

The gun had previously been used in three gang shootings.

Woods was arrested by a Kent Police Armed Response unit at Higham rail station in the early hours of January 29 after a concerned commuter dialled 999 after overhearing Woods talking to some friends about carrying a gun.

The 38-year-old man followed Woods into the waiting room at Chatham before engaging him in conversation and asking him if he was carrying a gun. Woods then pulled the gun from his bag while wearing a sock on his hand.

Woods then handed the gun to the member of the public, before telling the man it was loaded, at which point he immediately handed it back.

Kent Police Armed Response units boarded the train, which had been stopped at Higham.

The member of the public, who was in the same carriage as Woods, pointed him out to officers. The gun had a round loaded into the chamber, and there was also a clown mask in the bag.

The National Ballistics Intelligence Service reported the gun had been previously used in three gang-related shootings in London, including one where a person was shot three times with the weapon.

During the hearing, His Honour Judge Michael Carroll commended the member of the public for his actions and directed that he receive £350 from the High Sheriff's Fund by way of a reward.

Det Con Bob Gee of Britsh Transport Police said: "The member of the public showed incredible bravery in the face of what must have been a very frightening, intimidating situation, and was deservedly commended by the court for his actions. I hope the three-year sentence sends out the clearest possible message that the consequences for those who are found to have live or imitation weapons are severe."

Woods was sentenced to three years' detention after pleading guilty to possessing a prohibited firearm. He was also sentenced to three years' detention – to run concurrently – for possessing ammunition without a certificate.

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News

CHILD ABUSE

Director: I'll lose my home before I give up on kids

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

AN AWARD-winning director says he is willing to sacrifice his home if it means he can continue to raise awareness of abuse in childcare.

Bill Maloney, 55, who edits most of his movies from a converted caravan in Whitstable, admits he and his wife Maria would rather live on the street than give up on abused youngsters.

His latest production – Adam Rickwood and the Medomsley Heroes – has been made available free on YouTube after a ban on the DVD was lifted.

The documentary examines the plight of Adam, 14, who committed suicide in 2004. An inquest ruled unlawful use of force by officers at Hassockfield Secure Training Centre, in County Durham, contributed to his death.

The film was banned by a coroner until a second inquest into the youngster's death had ended in January.

Bill said: "The film was released after the first inquest, but the coroner tried to ban it before the second inquest because he was worried the jury would see it. First it was an invitation from him, then it was a request and then he threatened us with legal action.

"We fight for people's civil liberties and against child abuse, and we survive on DVD sales and donations.

"But whether we survive or not, the work on our documentaries has been done. That's why we're putting it on the internet free, because people need that information about child abuse."

One of eight children born to an alcoholic father and prostitute mother, Bill spent most of his early life in care with the rest of his brothers and sisters, all of whom were abused.

DEDICATED: Documentary maker Bill Maloney

But Bill was able to turn his life around and forge a career making films and documentaries, with his first creation, Lunatic, winning an award at the New York Film Festival.

He has now focused his attentions almost entirely on movies to raise awareness of child abuse, such as the Medomsley Heroes film that also covers the abuse carried out at County Durham's infamous Medomsley detention centre in the 1970s and '80s.

He said: "We will live on the streets if we have to. We have lived in a council flat in Lewisham for 30 years, but we're looking at being thrown out because we've put everything into this."

Visit www.pienmashfilms.com for more information about the film.

■ **See yourcanterbury.co.uk for local news and sport headlines.**

PLANNING

Approval given for quarry to be dug up for Kentish ragstone

LARGE parts of an ancient woodland are to be dug up for Kentish ragstone.

Kent County Council approved plans for Hermitage Quarry, in Barming near Maidstone, to expand into Oaken Wood next to its existing site.

This decision has to go to Whitehall for approval because it is not currently included in the council's local plan for mineral extraction.

Before it was approved the Woodland Trust wrote to Eric Pickles, secretary of state for communities and local government, calling for an independent review of the application.

The trust claimed the proposals contravened Government planning policy on biodiversity and geological conservation.

In their letter to Mr Pickles, the trust said: "The proposal by Gallagher Aggregates Ltd will result in a significant loss of ancient woodland – an irreplaceable natural resource which has taken centuries, even millennia to evolve; home to more threatened species than any other habitat in the UK."

Under the plans, roughly 14 per cent of the woodland will be quarried in 15 phases and the planning permission requires the setting up of a management board to oversee the site restoration following completion of the quarrying.

Following the approval of the plans on Tuesday, KCC committee chairman Cllr Richard King said: "Objectors have argued the loss of irreplaceable ancient woodland and impact on wildlife is unacceptable.

"On balance, however, members felt the job prospects and economic need for the ragstone to support construction, and benefits of the project, outweighed these objections."

A spokesman for Gallagher Aggregate Ltd said: "Part of the application looked at other sites and none of them have good quality stone and are close to the highways.

"Our permitted reserves expire in three to four years and then Kent would have to import aggregate. We directly employ 50 people and about a further three or four times as many via supply chains, if we do not get the application approved we would end up closing."

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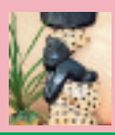

LITERATURE

Sci-fi author wants you to plot the future

A SCI-FI novelist is leading a literary revolution as he begins an interactive e-book project.

Stewart Ross, from Blean, near Canterbury, published the first chapter of The Soterion Mission last Friday, with online readers able to guide the direction of the plot by voting on a series of options.

"It's a new way of getting young adults into reading via the internet," said Mr Ross.

"At the end of each chapter there will be a three-way vote which will be made online."

The book is set in 2090 when a disease limits human life span to less than two decades.

Read the story at www.fictionexpress.co.uk.

CHARITY

Ladies to get walking with a Loose Woman

THE Heart of Kent Hospice is calling all women to join its sponsored Moonlit Walk on July 16.

ITV Loose Women presenter Carol McGiffin will be cheering on the walkers. She said: "I wanted once again to show my support to all those women actually doing the walk in the moonlight raising funds for the Hospice."

The walk starts at 10pm from David Lloyd at Kings Hill, and there is a choice of a six-mile or 10-mile route.

The cost of registration is £15, for more information got to www.moonlitwalk.org, call 01622 790195, or email enquiries@moonlitwalk.org.

COMPETITION

WIN tickets to the castle joust

USE your Key to the Castle this spring and bring the family to watch live jousting in the beautiful 900-year-old Leeds Castle.

From May 31 until June 5, an action-packed week of medieval activities and entertainment, sponsored by Archant KOS Media will be on offer for visitors to the castle. Watch thrilling tournaments from mounted knights, see medieval weaponry and watch displays of spectacular action, stunts, falls, fights and galloping horses.

The Knights of Royal England will recreate the excitement and drama without losing any of the pomp and pageantry of a real medieval jousting tournament.

Children and adults will enjoy watching fearless knights on horseback performing daredevil stunts, fights and falls in an authentic jousting arena against the beautiful backdrop of the medieval castle.

In addition to the twice-daily jousts there will be historical activities on offer for children of all ages, including archery and medieval themed crafts in a marquee. An additional charge of £2 per child applies.

Henry VIII will be wandering around the grounds and always likes to have his photograph taken with visitors – we can't promise he'll smile for the camera though.

MEDIEVAL FUN: Watch knights compete for glory at beautiful Leeds Castle

We have five family tickets (two adults and three children) to give away so you can enjoy the jousting for free. To be in with a chance of winning just answer this question.

How old is Leeds Castle?
A) 900 years
B) 300 years
C) 400 years

Text JOUSTING (space) answer, your name and address and send to 64343. Texts cost £1 plus standard network rates.

Entries received after the closing date of May 25, 2011, will not be counted, but you may still be charged.

Your number may be used by Archant KOS Media. If you do not wish to receive information on any other products or services, please text EXIT at the end of your message. The service provider is JMedia UK Ltd, SE1 0QX, telephone 0844 800 1188.

Key to the Castle tickets cost £18.50 for adults; £16 for seniors and visitors with disabilities (carer goes free); £11 for children (under fours free). Tickets are valid for 12 months so you can pay once and visit all year round.

Leeds Castle is near Maidstone just off junction 8 of the M20. Grounds open at 10am and the castle is open from 10.30am. Last admission is 4.30pm and gates close at 6pm. See www.leeds-castle.com or call 01622 765400 for details.

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RICH LIST

Kent's stars of music and business defy downturn to win places on the Rich List

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

MUSIC legends, rice producers and even Roman royalty are among those representing Kent in the Sunday Times' 22nd annual Rich List.

Since 1989 the newspaper has published a league table of the wealthiest people in Britain, and this year a number of colourful characters from the Garden of England are featured.

Among them are Rolling Stones rock gods Sir Mick Jagger and Keith Richards – who attended school together in Dartford – former Dover College student and X Factor boss Simon Cowell, and Live Aid creator and Faversham resident Sir Bob Geldof.

Folkestone-based businessmen Roger and Peter De Haan are Kent's wealthiest representatives on the Rich List, having been ranked at 87th with a combined wealth of about £800 million.

"London and the South East still dominate the Rich List," said compiler Philip Beresford.

"They represent nearly 53 per cent of the top 1,000 and also have a disproportionate share of the wealth with nearly £245 billion between them – just under 62 per cent of the total."

While this year's Rich List is again made up of mostly businessmen and A-list celebrities, space has also been reserved for multi-millionaires who obtained their wealth through inheritance and divorce.

Prince Jonathan Pamphilj and his sister Princess Gesine Doria Pamphilj, for example, now have a combined wealth of £500m following the death of their adoptive parents.

Their father Frank Pogson – a former British naval frigate commander from Kent – married into one of Italy's richest families after the end of World War Two, and with his wife Princess Orietta Doria Pamphilj brought the siblings up in a Roman palace that now houses one of the greatest private art collections in the world.

CASH: Rolling Stone Mick Jagger and Folkestone's Roger De Haan

> **London and the South East still dominate the Rich List. They represent nearly 53 per cent of the top 1,000 with £245 billion**
>
> **PHILIP BERESFORD,** COMPILER OF THIS YEAR'S RICH LIST TABLE

Also on the Rich List is Ann Summers chief executive Jacqueline Gold, 50, who grew up in Biggin Hill, and whose business is reportedly worth £150m.

Sir Mick Jagger is Britain's eighth wealthiest musician with £190m to his name, while his Rolling Stones bandmate and fellow Wentworth Primary School alumnus Keith Richards is 10th with £175m.

Former Boomtown Rats frontman Sir Bob Geldof, whose Ten Alps production company supplied Kent County Council's ill-fated internet project Kent TV, is ranked 230 on Ireland's Rich List, while Dover-born singer Joss Stone is the 26th richest young person with £9m.

Also included in the main Rich List are Peter Cullum (£450m) and the O'Rourke family (£315m) – owners of the Maidstone-based insurance firm Towergate and the Dartford building company Laing O'Rourke respectively.

Tunbridge Wells resident Sir Keith Mills, who invented the Air Miles and Nectar Card schemes, is listed with a personal wealth of £160m while Moni Varma, whose Rochester-based Veetee Rice operation is the biggest supplier of the food in the UK, has £77m.

Also on the list are Folkestone financier Andrew Goodsell (£133m), Bromley shoe shop king Roger Bromley (£120m), Canterbury quarrying family Bretts (£84m), and Aylesford builder Pat Gallagher (£34m).

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POLICING

Uni lecturer named new police chief

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

KENT Police Authority has appointed an experienced former officer-turned-university lecturer as its new chief executive.

Graham Hooper has fulfilled a number of important roles at organisations including the Metropolitan Police, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and the Home Office, and since his retirement in February last year has lectured in criminology at the University of West London.

He joins the KPA at a time when Kent Police prepares to lose 500 officers and 1,000 support staff as a result of government spending cuts.

Mr Hooper said: "I'm fully aware of the challenging times police authorities face nationally. I have worked in organisations undergoing transition before and feel very well equipped to take on the role."

Former chief executive Mark Gilmartin left the KPA last month after five years in the job.

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OPINION

Thanks for nothing, Nick

Canterbury Lib Dem leader Cllr Alex Perkins says his party's poor results in the council elections is the fault of Clegg's support for the Coalition

THE local elections on May 5 were, for most people, the first real chance they've had to demonstrate their opinion of the Coalition Government.

There's been hand-wringing, ranting, rioting, and a plethora of opinions in newspapers – but this was the first time a ballot could be used to register approval or otherwise of the Coalition.

So May 5 was never going to be a good day to be a Lib Dem.

However, it gets worse. Nick Clegg demanded the AV referendum take place on the same day as council elections.

So Lib Dems across the county weren't even given the chance to stand or fall on their record in local government. However well they'd served communities, thanks to Nick Clegg poisoning the well of British politics, for most Lib Dems it was like sending your opening batsmen to the crease only for them to find, the moment the first balls were bowled, their bats had been broken before the game by the team captain.

A 'local election' is supposed to be a verdict on the council over the previous four years. But it's never that simple.

Doubtless some people did vote on the basis of local issues. But a great many voted on how they felt about the Coalition – and others were motivated by the referendum. And it showed!

Polling stations across Kent were swamped with people who turned out to vote 'no'. Turn-out was up from what is expected for a council election – and with seven out of 10 of those extra voters motivated to support a Tory NO2AV campaign, that had a disastrous effect on Lib Dem fortunes.

Some people – who had gone simply to vote in the referendum – had no idea about who runs their council or is supposed to have fixed the pavements. They would have been mystified by the complicated, often multi-member, council ballot paper they had been handed along with the simple yes/no referendum ballot. In my ward in Canterbury dozens of council ballot papers ended up stuffed into ballot-boxes without any cross on them.

A great many however, turning out as they had due to the deceitful anti-AV campaign promoted by David Cameron, cast their votes in the council elections in same proportions they had in the referendum. The day was lost.

But that was just the start of it. Often, in elections, particularly in Tory-dominated areas like Kent, discerning anti-Tory voters check who is in second place and vote for them. In my neck of the woods, that would normally benefit the Lib Dems. But can you blame them if they decided not to vote tactically this time?

I'm just a councillor, and because I, and many Lib Dems in Canterbury, don't think the Coalition is a good thing is irrelevant. Nick Clegg has apparently spoken for all of us.

Nick Clegg is poisoning the well of British politics

He's supporting a government hell-bent on destroying some of the things I hold dear – and in so doing, turned not only tactical Labour supporters against us – but even some of our own Lib Dems. In this area at least this means only one thing – more Tories in power.

One of my best friends was going to stand for the Lib Dems in Canterbury. But he wasn't willing to stand for a party that votes with Tories to cut EMA, increase student fees and is threatening to destroy our NHS.

He chose to leave. I won't. I'm staying. Staying 'til I've either forced the party back on to a centre-left track – or they chuck me out.

We lost five of our 14 council seats in Canterbury last week. And next door in Herne Bay they lost four out of five.

Thanks Nick.

KOS COMMENT

Crime fears a natural reaction to the cuts

WHILE fears raised by Kent Police Federation that crime will rise due to spending cuts could be dismissed as scaremongering and self-interest, the loss of 500 officers will leave a dent.

Although the police authority argues frontline policing will be protected, residents will be feeling concerns over the cuts and the impact they will have on crime and public safety.

Kent Police have carried out hard work over the years to ensure the county remains a safe place to live.

This has to continue and the force must prove fears over crime levels are unwarranted.

Gallery helps us kiss goodbye to bad times

TURNER Contemporary opened in a whirlwind of excitement after the lead up to its much-anticipated arrival.

Which is why it's good to see that excitement continuing with the arrival of famous masterpiece, Auguste Rodin's The Kiss. If this is a taster of what to expect from the gallery, things are on the up for Margate.

"My father had a stroke recently. Whitehead Monckton helped me sell his home so he could move in to a care home and sort out payment of his care costs with minimal fuss. They also made sure his finances are now protected for his ongoing benefit."

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Beach huts at Westgate-on-Sea submitted by Joe Couzens-Howard

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Rubbish told over UK debt

I FELT obliged to write in following my study of people's misled reactions to the Government's spending cuts.

I fail to see how we can accept such drastic cuts to our lifestyles, our culture and our livelihoods with a pitiful explanation of "it's necessary". This deficit is no larger than it has been for 200 years and the rubbish reasoning of "there are no alternatives" is an insult to our intelligence. Of course there are alternatives.

Maybe if Cameron's billionaire friends hadn't been making money out of the recession he would be more inclined to invest in the economy to effectively pull us out of it. We created the NHS under the shadow of a recession, so if we've done it before we can do it again.

As free-thinking individuals it is our responsibility to look for the facts and not just lap up the rubbish we're fed.

The facts are simple: failures in the world's financial system created a recession which inevitably created a deficit. To encourage re-growth within the economy it is absurd to suggest cuts to spending; we should be investing. While the national debt is higher than it's been for some time, it's still lower than it's been for most of the last century. Debt has often been higher in the past – and it goes up after national emergencies such as wars and worldwide recessions.

The first thing we have to do here is junk the idea that the national economy is like a household's. Every time a politician says we have to do with the nation's finances what a prudent householder would do with a credit card bill, you can stop listening. It's nonsense.

The fact is the rich got richer during the recession. After the initial loss from the financial crisis, a stock market rebound helped the world's ranks of millionaires climb by 17 per cent to 10 million, while their collective wealth surged 19 per cent to $39 trillion. So while you miss out on quality, vital services due to cutbacks remember people are making money.

I certainly did not gamble unfathomable amounts of money away on risky rumour-led banking predictions. I just paid my taxes. I haven't enjoyed the financial benefit of an off-shore tax haven saving me trillions of pounds. I just went to work.

But it is our university fees that will triple. It is our job prospects looking empty. And it will be our futures that are tainted and disregarded.

Vicky Castle, Densole

Turner Centre is one big con

THE TURNER Centre got to be one of the biggest Kent cons yet.

There are open spaces, it's true. But if you have been in many new works buildings they look the same before they are used.

There is hardly anything in there, apart from two good paintings and very little contemporary art – and what is there is second rate.

If you look out at the views which were still there before the Turner factory unit was built, you can see plenty of blades turning out at sea without going in the building.

As for the well-advertised open spaces, there were more before the out of place Turner Centre was built.

If you can't get well-known artists to display go to senior schools and local artists – you will get plenty of good art then.

I think everybody in Kent should ask for a council tax rebate. I could supply some contemporary art – I have some screwed up newspapers which have printed rubbish about the Turner Centre, some pictures of the planners, pictures of piles of money. I call it You Have Been Conned Again People of Thanet.

Adrian Ottley, Birchington

Call time on EU's demands

WHY IS it when the EU tells David Cameron and George Osborne we have to part with more money to prop up the euro they turn round and say what can we do but pay?

I can tell you there is something else you can do and that is to give the people a say in what is happening to their country and stop acting like dictators.

This is the democracy you keep trying to hoist on other countries, now try to get this one right first.

RE Tucker, Sheerness

VJ memories wanted on film

I AM making an amateur documentary film about London on VJ night 1945.

If, like me, you were there on that incredible unforgettable night 65 years ago, I would be pleased to hear from you.

Derek Allen
North House, Oakley Rd, Bromley, BR2 8HQ

In urgent need of cycle safety

CYCLING should be reasonably safe on 'C' class roads, but sadly this is not the case.

Take a key route from Pluckley to Hothfield, (along Swan Lane and Little Chart Road): this is an unrestricted speed, motorists' rat-run which cyclists are forced to avoid.

Bockham Lane (from the M20 to Wye, etc), is a narrow unrestricted speed rat-run, as is Oxenturn road, near Wye, part of which is National Cycle Route 18. None of these lanes have pavements and most have a 60mph maximum speed limit which is far too fast. Narrow lanes are effectively 'shared-space' and the maximum should therefore be 20 mph.

For cycle routes to qualify for national and European long-distance paths status, they must conform to certain conditions one of which is that where they are on-road, the number of motor vehicles using that road must not exceed 1,000 vehicles per day.

The National Cycling Strategy compares the UK's low level of cycling and notes that while Switzerland has more hills, Sweden has colder winters, and Germany more cars, each has five times the number of cycle trips than in the UK.

The reason is our negligible provision to foster cycling and consequent poor safety records compared with our Continental counterparts.

Traffic-calming on rural roads is woefully inadequate, when will the council make an effort to make our country lanes more people-friendly?

Ted Prangnell, Kennington, member of the CTC, Roadpeace, and Living Streets

Party lies, lies and more lies

NIGEL Farage is being uncharacteristically restrained in his suggestion that Eric Pickles and the Tory Party are being disingenuous about the EU (KoS, May 8).

The plain truth is, we've been lied to again and again by both Labour and the Tories.

First it was Edward Heath telling us we were just voting for a 'Common Market'.

Then it's been various governments telling us that each treaty, which has taken us deeper and deeper into the control of a foreign power, has only been a 'tidying up exercise'.

Then we had Blair promising a referendum on two separate occasions. Lies, all lies.

Thanks to the supine and apathetic British public, our MPs have got away with this travesty for too long and even they may at last be beginning to realise that out of their own self interest they have opened a Pandora's box they may be unable to close.

Phil Granger, West Malling

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MyMoney 24

Online this week at
www.mymoney24.co.uk:

So, how can I guard against identity theft?

TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC

Q My son uses a Sony PlayStation, but because he is young I let him register in my name. When the network was shut down last month, I was alarmed at the explanation that this was done because hackers had got into Sony's computer files and stolen the personal details of millions of customers, including credit card numbers. Is there anything I should be doing to guard against identity theft as a result, and should I take out insurance against losing any money? If so, could I reclaim the cost from Sony?

A This has been a huge blow for Sony, and a big worry for its customers. The hackers got away with personal information on three million people in Britain alone – and an estimated 70 million in the rest of the world. Should you be worried? Not necessarily, but you should be careful. Check your bank statements and credit card spending, and if there are any unexplained items then tell your bank and card company immediately. Consider applying for a copy of your own credit agency file as well, from one of the big checking firms like Equifax (www.equifax.co.uk). This normally costs just £2. If the file shows that a loan or finance company has been making enquiries about you, and you have not applied for any such loan, this could be a sign that someone is using your name. You can insure against identity theft, but it is probably more expensive than it is worth. You are not responsible for spending made by a fraudster using your name, unless perhaps you have done something silly like telling people your card Pin. The main result of being a victim of identity theft is inconvenience, since your own accounts and cards are likely to be frozen until your bank is convinced that you really are you, and not the imposter. Sony is working on plans for insurance to cover all its customers whose personal data was stolen. It has announced cover worth $1m (about £600,000) for its American customers, so before you make any decision on insuring, wait and see what the company does for its British game players.

Q Last December we booked a holiday in Tunisia. When the trouble started there, we tried to cancel but were persuaded it would be safe by the time we fly out on July 30. It did go quiet, but now there has been more trouble. Would we be within our rights to cancel and reclaim our money from the tour operator or our travel insurer?

A There have been demonstrations in the capital Tunis, and a nightly curfew is in force. But the Foreign Office says the only part of the country you should definitely avoid is within about 25 miles of the border with Libya, where fighting has sometimes spilled over into Tunisia. There are no restrictions on travel to the main tourist resorts, and as long as the Foreign Office says these areas are safe, your tour operator will go ahead, your flight will leave, and your insurance company will not pay up if you cancel.

Q My wife's father passed away recently. He was a widower, and in his will he has left almost everything to his sister, who never married. My wife and I are comfortably off, and there is no resentment about this. However, according to the solicitor, there will definitely be inheritance tax to pay on my father-in-law's estate. His sister is herself frail and elderly, so if she dies, is there any way to avoid a second inheritance tax bill?

A If inheritance tax is paid, and the person who inherits dies not much later, then the tax man will not expect a second bite at the cherry. This is called 'quick succession relief'. If your father-in-law's sister dies within a year of inheriting, there will be no further tax bill. If she lives for five years, then normal rules apply and tax will be due on her death.

Q I would like a personal loan to pay off card debts and get my life back on track. I need about £9,000 and I can repay this over the next five years. Who do you recommend as a lender?

A Assuming you have a steady income and show you can afford the repayments, you should have no problems. Tesco (0845 600 6768) charges 7.4pc interest and offers personal loans repayable over as long as 10 years. Or try Nationwide (0800 30 20 10), which has just cut its personal loan rates. If you have a Nationwide Flexaccount, typical interest is 7pc.

Q I am a student. If I work in the vacations, how much can I earn without paying tax? Also, I have some savings and tax is deducted from the interest. Can I reclaim it?

A You should only pay tax if your income for the financial year from April 6 goes above £7,475. Stay below this figure and you can also reclaim tax deducted from savings interest. Your bank or building society can give you an exemption form so future interest will be paid in full.

■ **If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.**

Card users are hit by higher interest

By Adam Aiken
MyMoney 24 editor

MILLIONS of credit-card users who do not pay off their balances in full every month are being stung by higher interest charges.

Nearly 20 card issuers have put up their rates since the start of 2011, as opposed to just four during the same period last year – even though the Bank of England has kept the base rate at its record low of 0.5pc during that time.

The statisticians at Moneyfacts.co.uk have calculated that the average interest rate now stands at 19.1pc – the highest level for 13 years.

"At the start of 2011, card providers moved to a 'positive order of repayments' as recommended by the Office for Fair Trading, which has dented the revenue levels they can earn from customers," said Moneyfacts spokesman Michelle Slade.

"Card providers have also been hit by the PPI ruling, which has seen them having to repay money to customers deemed to have been mis-sold the insurance."

The positive order of repayments involves card companies prioritising customers' payments to those items accruing the most interest.

Previously, most providers would use any payments to clear interest-free balance transfers first, with the most expensive items remaining on the account until last, all the while accruing further interest.

The change has resulted in card companies seeing their income fall – hence the rise in rates.

"There has been a sharp increase in the number of providers raising the interest rates charged on their credit cards," said Miss Slade.

"Several of the biggest providers of cards, including Barclaycard, Halifax, Royal Bank of Scotland and Santander, have been party to the increases. It is unlikely we have seen the last of the increases and we expect more providers to follow suit."

HIGH PRICE: People who fail to clear their credit card balances each month are being stung by higher interest charges

> **It's unlikely we have seen the last of the increases and we expect more providers to follow suit**
> MICHELLE SLADE

The high interest rates come at a time when some of the longest 0pc balance-transfer periods yet seen are available.

Savvy consumers can use these deals to their advantage, but people who fail to clear their balances by the end of the transfer period face being hit by high interest rates.

"Providers hope to bank on customers' reluctance to keep switching and can claw back the lost interest during introductory periods once they end," said Miss Slade.

Radical rethink is needed on pensions

A NEW twist on the concept of a pensions lottery was introduced into the wider debate about retirement saving this week.

The combination of pensions inadequacy and soaring care costs meant a radical rethink of the structure of the industry was necessary to avoid widespread pensioner poverty in the future, said a new report.

Ros Altmann, director general of Folkestone-based Saga, said it would be sensible to rename pensions and offer lottery prizes to savers.

"It is absolutely vital that we reinvigorate long-term savings.

"People have lost faith in pensions and many have put no money aside for retirement, never mind for long-term care.

"Saving more is important, perhaps we can rename private pensions and have lottery prizes to help increase the attractiveness of retirement saving.

"But people will have to work longer as well. We have been ignoring reality for far too long."

The word 'pension' had become a negative word, said Dr Altmann, and it should be used only for the money paid to an individual by the state.

"The rest is your own savings for your own future and should be called something else."

News
Domestic fuel prices are set to rise

Best buys
Check out the best savings deals

On the blogs
Adam Aiken:
This PPI apology leaves a lot to be desired

A massive increase in shorter phone deals

A MAJOR reshuffle in the way mobile phone deals work has seen the average length of contracts reduce dramatically, but at a price.

New EU legislation has banned the sale of 36-month long mobile phone contracts and forced providers to offer 12-month deals.

As well as protecting consumers from getting trapped into lengthy contracts, the move has led to a massive increase in the number of 12-month deals available.

In fact, the number of 12-month contracts on the market has rocketed from just 279 in February to 4,765 at the start of May.

That figure compares to the 3,300 deals removed from the market as a result of the 36-month ban.

But there is a price to pay because the cost of the cheapest available "pay monthly" deal has almost doubled from £5 to £9 a month.

Longer contracts enable providers to reduce monthly bills for consumers, as they have longer to claw back their costs.

So the death of the 36-month contract has already signalled the end of some of the cheapest deals on the market.

According to Uswitch.com, this also means free phones are under threat, especially smartphones.

The sought-after phones were the biggest reasons behind the growth of longer-term contracts as providers could reclaim their higher costs by tying the customer into a long contract.

As a result, getting hold of a smartphone will now come at a higher price.

Ernest Doku, technology expert at Uswitch, said: "This new ruling has not only culled the growth of lengthy contracts, but has also opened the door to a new wave of 12-month deals; great news for those savvy customers who want the freedom to move around each year.

"Originally lured by cheap monthly costs, three years down the line consumers were finding themselves saddled with an obsolete phone, not to mention a contract that no longer suited their needs. With over 3,000 36-month deals on the market before the ban, this law was brought in just in time. However, it isn't all good news. As a general rule, the longer the contract, the lower the monthly fee.

"Providers may compensate themselves by stopping to offer the latest handsets for free on shorter contracts.

"This is potentially bad news for those people who can't afford the initial cost of a shiny new phone."

Mr Doku said people needed to consider what they wanted from their phone, how they intended to use it and ultimately what they could afford.

MAJOR RESHUFFLE: The length of mobile phone contracts has changed in recent month – but at a price

Shop around to find the best car insurance deals

By Adam Aiken
MyMoney 24 editor

NEW rules over the renewal of motor insurance are likely to mean more drivers will shop around for the best deals, although a significant minority of people seem to be prepared to take a chance and risk being fined.

From June, "continuous insurance enforcement" (CIE) will make it illegal to own a vehicle without valid insurance unless it has been declared off-road. Car owners who fail to insure their vehicles could ultimately see them seized and crushed.

Research carried out by price-comparison service Moneysupermarket.com suggests that 56pc of motorists will be more vigilant and will search for better deals on their insurance.

"Uninsured drivers cost the industry £500m each year, which as a result adds an average of £30 to every motorist's premium," said Peter Harrison, of Moneysupermarket.

"Our own research has found a staggering one in six UK motorists has admitted to driving a car uninsured.

"With CIE legislation coming into force next month, this should help drive down the number of uninsured drivers on our roads – a move which can be only applauded.

"All motorists still need to be vigilant, though – especially leisure drivers or motorbike enthusiasts who use their vehicles only occasionally and let their insurance lapse in the meantime."

Mr Harrison said a worrying number of people claimed the new rules would simply make them automatically renew their policies with their existing insurers, while 10pc of motorists quizzed in the poll said the change would not affect how they insured their cars, and they would be prepared to accept any fines imposed if they were caught without cover.

"The legislation will go a long way towards encouraging people to shop around at renewal time to find better deals on their insurance," he said.

"That said, there are clearly still motorists out there who will just accept renewal quotes out of convenience – a bank-breaking move I would advise against.

"With insurance premiums rising on average by 44p a day, or by 31pc last year, shopping around for the best deal is crucial to ensure you aren't paying over the odds for your car insurance."

PICK OF THE WEEK

In association with the experts at Moneyfacts.co.uk, we highlight some of the best new products launched this week.

Savings: Ipswich Building Society
Ipswich Building Society has launched its latest Big Bond 2 paying 4.8pc. Savers can invest between £5,000 and £100,000 and further additions can be made whilst the issue remains open. Withdrawals cannot be made until July 2013, after which they are subject to 180 days' loss of interest. The account is available to savers of all ages and can be operated in branch and by post.
Why is it good? The bond is amongst the market leaders in the long-term savings market. A monthly option at a slightly reduced rate of 4.7pc offers investors a high return.

Savings: Norwich and Peterborough Building Society
The Branch Saver account has been launched paying a rate of 1pc with a 1.25pc bonus, calculated on the average daily balance subject to the account remaining open after one year. The underlying rate is guaranteed to increase in line with any base rate changes until the end of this year. Savers can invest between £1 and £1m. No advance notice is required to access funds. The account is available to investors of all ages and can be operated in branch and by post.
Why is it good? The launch of this account sees the building society expanding its variable-rate range. A rate of 2.25pc means it is one of the market-leading instant access branch-based accounts, although the bonus is paid only if the account remains open after one year.

Mortgages: ING Direct
A new range of fixed-rate mortgages has been launched by ING Direct including a new five-year deal at 4.99pc to June 2016. This product has a maximum loan-to-value (LTV) of 80pc and customers can borrow between £50,000 and £1m. No arrangement fee is payable. Remortgage borrowers can enjoy a free valuation and free legal fees.
Why is it good? This new deal is available to first, second time and remortgage borrowers with a 20pc deposit. Compared with other 80pc LTV mortgages, this deal benefits from having no arrangement fee and a comprehensive incentive package for remortgage customers.

Mortgages: Skipton Building Society
Skipton Building Society has reduced the rate on its two-year fixed-rate mortgage to 5.99pc to July 2013. The maximum LTV is 95pc and customers can borrow up to £1m. First-time buyers can have a maximum advance of £250,000. The arrangement fee is £195. Incentives of a free valuation and free legal fees are offered to remortgage customers.
Why is it good? This product sees a rate reduction of 0.5pc. Borrowers with limited funds for a deposit will be pleased with this deal's high LTV.

moneyfacts.co.uk

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

A lesson to us all – when faced with the potential hazards of recession, Folkestone's Creative Foundation chose to tackle the storm head on, continuing with its bold plans to harness the arts.
Years later, it's time for the second Folkestone Triennial, and while things haven't always been easy, the foundation has weathered the storm and helped turn around the town's fortunes.

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Proposal could be breath of fresh air for Sheerness

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

A DANISH wind-turbine firm has promised huge investment and the creation of 2,000 jobs in north Kent if it receives backing from Government for orders of its new product.

Vestas Wind Systems has announced plans to develop an area the size of 93 football pitches at the Port of Sheerness to build a production centre for their new wind turbines.

The supersized V164-7.0MW model is as tall as the Gherkin tower in London and twice as powerful as the turbines already placed off the Thanet coast. The possible investment could be a big boost to the county, which in February received the news that pharmaceutical giant Pfizer was to close its plant in Sandwich, with the loss of 2,400 jobs.

However, Anders Søe-Jensen, president of Vestas Offshore, has warned that the company will only make the investment if it receives the right backing from the Government and Kent County Council. Søe-Jensen explained that political encouragement for wind-farm providers to do business would increase demand for their product.

He said: "We have shown our intentions to make major investments and subsequent job-creation, but it is evident that we don't just jump head first into an investment of this size.

"We need to make sure it makes sense business-wise. Before our customers can provide us with the needed order pipeline, they need to see stability in the market and a long-term political and regulatory certainty that ensures their business case. Making that happen lies in the hands of the policy-makers, so we are looking forward to seeing the UK government providing the best possible terms for the offshore wind industry to truly take off and the potential jobs become a reality."

Vestas says it has chosen the site on Sheppey because Sheerness docks are highly accessible by boat from other north European countries.

Søe-Jensen said: "We looked at the land required, access to deep sea and demographics of workforce. We made a very big equation including sailing times to construction sites in the UK and on the Continent. We put in all our numbers and Sheerness came out on top."

If the plans go ahead, turbine blades as long as nine double-decker buses will be built at the port due to their inability to be transported by road.

HIGH HOPES: 2,000 jobs could be created at Sheerness through turbine-firm Vestas

EMPLOYMENT

Jobs are at home in new Next store

THE new Next HOME standalone store is now open at Prospect Place, Dartford.

The converted store will harness all of the company's latest retail concepts – Next says the 10,701sq ft shop has a fresh sense of spaciousness created by intelligent lighting, inspiring use of graphics and an impressive shop-fit.

The new design encompasses more natural materials and the lighting, bathroom and kitchen departments have all been revamped.

This new opening has created some 15 new jobs, in addition to the 40 staff who are being transferred from the old clearance store, and will take the Next HOME store total in the UK and Ireland to 32.

It has also been a boost for the local economy, attracting shoppers to other stores in the immediate area as well as through its own doors.

The shop is open from 9.30am-7.30pm Monday to Friday, 9am-6pm Saturday and 10.30am-4.30pm on Sunday.

BOOK THEM IN: Some of the donations

DONATIONS

Charitable efforts of consultants

THE staff at HR+ Limited, an HR and training consultancy with offices in Ashford, has collected more than 700 books since January against their target of 1,000.

The books range from children's stories and reference books to adult fiction, crime and autobiographies.

They will go on sale at the Hythe branch of Demelza bookshops and all profits will support the hospice's services across Kent, East Sussex and south-east London.

Hugh Billot, managing director, said: "HR+ Limited looks forward to providing continued support to Demelza to ensure that their staff are able to retain the great specialist care and support they give."

Demelza provides care and help to families who have children with terminal conditions and also offers respite care.

As well as providing medical help and support, the charity aims to improve the quality of life for the children and their families.

SPORT

Clearing the pitch for top athletes

UNIGRO, the leading provider of controlled research environments, is to carry out a feasibility study on turning an indoor five-a-side football pitch at Fawkham into Europe's largest fully-acclimatised sports facility.

The study will investigate the viability of the proposed design, which, if sanctioned, will enable athletes to train in a range of climatic conditions and altitudes.

The design will include an integrated building-management system to control the programmable temperature, humidity and atmospheric conditions as required.

Angus Padfield, research and development director at Unigro, said the project was an exciting one: "We are very enthusiastic about this project.

"This new state-of-the-art facility has the potential to revolutionise how UK athletes train for international sporting events, and we are delighted to be involved with what could be one of the world's largest facilities."

COMMENT

THE regeneration of Folkestone proceeds despite all the doom and gloom that has surrounded the economy in the last few years.

The members of the Creative Foundation who are behind the bold and innovative scheme to use the arts to rejuvenate part of the town deserve nothing but praise for their perseverance.

It would have been easy to use the 'times are hard' excuse to pull the plug and walk away without risking any more involvement.

But instead they stuck with their original bold ideas and that has been rewarded by so many of the businesses and traders who have moved to the town also showing the same faith.

With a new feature set to brighten the seafront and new restaurants set to open this summer, the future is looking bright once again for the group and those who have taken advantage of upgraded premises and moved their businesses to Folkestone.

Archant KOS Media has been a wholehearted supporter of the Creative Foundation and its objectives right from the start and we are pleased and impressed to see how things have progressed and that the vision for the town is still in place – when so many other regeneration schemes across the UK have fallen by the wayside.

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"It would be easy to use the 'times are hard' excuse to pull the plug

Creative approach has weathered the storm of recession

The BIG Interview

Reporter **Nick Ames** talks to Creative Foundation spokesman Peter Bettley, right, about the challenge of rejuvenating a forgotten part of town and the secrets of success in the run-up to the second Folkestone Triennial.

NINE years ago, plans were unveiled to transform a previously-neglected area of Folkestone. The Old High Street and Tontine Street, which both run to the harbour and its unused railway station, had suffered years of indifference from residents and businesses.

Shops were closing their doors, the cross-Channel ferry link had long gone and hardly anyone bothered to even take a walk through a distinctly unloved part of town.

But a partnership emerged between Nick Ewbank, who ran the Metropole Arts Centre, and businessman Roger De Haan, formerly boss of holiday company Saga and a multi-millionaire.

So was born the Creative Foundation – a pioneering bid to use art and culture to regenerate the run-down streets and its closed properties.

Now, as Folkestone prepares for its second time in the spotlight of European culture with its Triennial set for June, the group says its progress is ahead of schedule – despite the recession.

Peter Bettley is spokesman for the Creative Foundation.

He said: "If we had been able to predict when we started where we would be now, then our current position would be viewed as a success.

"Other similar regeneration projects have examined our achievements and the feeling seems to be that we have made 20 years' progress in the six that we have actually been in operation."

So far the foundation has spent some £40 million transforming the area. Of that, 93 per cent has come from a charitable trust established by De Haan to regenerate the town.

The rest has come from grant-making bodies and public funds and has been spent on educational facilities such as the University Centre and The Cube adult-education project, as well as the Quarterhouse performance venue, which has hosted musical, stage and comedy performances, along with visiting speakers.

Businesses to have opened along the two streets include galleries and art studios. There are shops selling curios, one of which is dedicated to military history and relics.

There is also a number of restaurants, bars, pubs and cafes.

Bettley said: "When the project first started, shops and homes were becoming derelict and the ferries had departed. But the area still had a lot of character and real potential which we felt we could and should exploit.

"Roger [De Haan] realised that any regeneration plan had to have sustainable longevity and so the Creative Foundation was born, buying freeholds outright and supervising and managing the properties.

"They were let out to creative people with ideas and businesses who shared some of the aims and objectives first put forward to use the arts as a way of bringing this part of the town to life once again.

"People who wanted to be part of what we were trying to do started coming to the town in 2005.

"One of the first to arrive was artist Shane Record, and he is still with us and thriving – albeit in bigger premises."

About a quarter of the foundation's properties are occupied by shops – the rest are homes, workplaces, galleries and studios.

"Some of our real successes are behind closed doors," said Bettley. "These are people and businesses who are not just selling to Folkestone. They are

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Kent Business School

Pictures: PAUL JERREAT

using agents in London and elsewhere and the internet to sell their works to whoever wants to purchase them."

The foundation's leasing offers 'easy in, easy out' terms and cut back on much of the bureaucracy found in the market.

It also prides itself on refurbishing property to a high standard, while accommodation rents are charged at market prices.

But as regeneration was gaining momentum, so came the recession.

Bettley said: "By 2007 it was obvious we were facing a big challenge.

"But the following year we had the first Triennial, and Folkestone quickly drew a fair amount of attention and experienced a boom.

"This had the effect of putting off the economic downturn as experienced by us and the recession started to hit us in late 2009 and 2010.

"The financial downturn started to hit our tenants and some of them found their businesses difficult to maintain.

"Some adapted and found other markets, but at the worst time, for every two businesses that opened we lost one.

"However, many were companies that did not need vast capital reserves to continue and were able to sustain themselves. In 2010 we never felt that we could no longer go on.

"The foundation was always a project focusing on long-term goals and objectives. Some of the leases are for periods up to 125 years.

"Then there was the second Triennial, which opens next month, and that was always something we felt would bring a boost to the area – just as the previous event did.

"Already attention on the town and interest in what is coming up are mounting.

"Over the last two months there has been a decidedly positive feeling, a real spring in the step for the area.

"In that period we have lost five businesses. But we have gained 12 and another 23 have renewed a lease.

"In my view that is a hell of a hit rate – a massive vote of confidence.

"During 2010 we worked hard to ensure people would stay with us. By the summer we expect another three restaurants to be opened to add to the three already operating.

"When we started, we were very impatient and we set some very ambitious targets. But we are on course."

The Triennial

ONLY a few weeks from now we will be enjoying the second Folkestone Triennial – the free exhibition that puts the town in the spotlight by presenting contemporary art in the public domain.

One of the most ambitious public-art projects to be presented in the UK, the exhibition begins on Saturday, June 25, and closes on Sunday, September 25.

Nineteen artists have been invited to develop new works for Folkestone's streets, squares, beaches and historic buildings to create artworks ranging from sculpture to film, soundwork to performance.

Most of the artworks will be unveiled on the opening day, but details of some have been announced already to whet the appetite.

Cornelia Parker is casting a life-size bronze statue of resident Georgina Baker in the pose of Copenhagen's famous Little Mermaid.

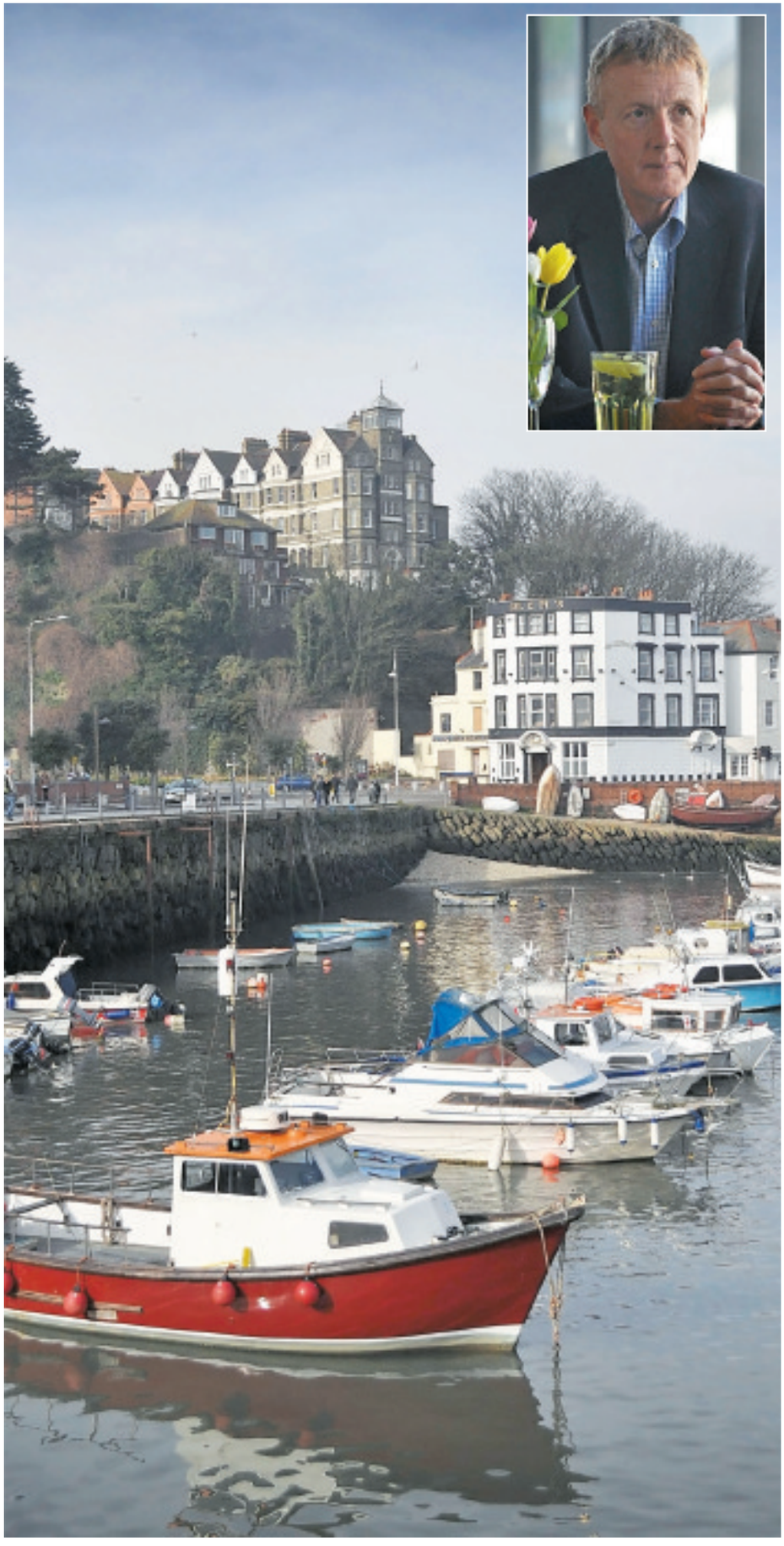
Cristina Iglesias will create an architectural structure on the overgrown ramparts of one of the historic Martello towers, giving the illusion of an entrance into another world.

Hew Locke is suspending some 100 model ships collected from around the world in the nave of St Mary and St Eanswythe's Church, the oldest building in Folkestone.

Norwegian artist Anne Katrine Dolven will install a huge disused 16th-century tenor bell on the seafront, with a specially-cast handle allowing visitors to ring it.

Scottish artist Ruth Ewan will create decimalised clock faces across the town, everywhere from the old town hall to a local taxi, to tell French Revolutionary time.

For more details or to sign up for Triennial news, visit www.folkestonetriennial.org.uk.



CALMER WATERS: The Creative Foundation is still in good shape despite the slump, to the delight of Peter Bettley, inset

TRADE FAIR

Opportunities in education

BUSINESSES wishing to sell their services or products to the county's schools are invited to exhibit at the Kent Schools Trade Fair being held at the County Showground, Detling, on Tuesday, June 21.

This is a popular annual event giving businesses with the responsibility for buying products and services used in the educational framework the opportunity to meet staff from the county's schools.

Last year's exhibition was highly successful, with 400 people visiting 80 exhibitors, and both school officials and business people said they felt it was of great benefit to all.

It is one of the best chances for business-owners to meet those who are responsible for bringing on the next generation of entrepreneurs, who will have the duty of ensuring that the economy grows.

For further details and a booking form, phone 01227 284612, or alternatively email sfstradeexhibition@kent.gov.uk.

PRINT

Media group has expanded

DOVER company Buckland Press has launched a new range of cross-media services.

The company, now rebranded Buckland Media Group, has expanded its existing range of print services to offer businesses a range of cross-media solutions.

In addition to conventional high-quality five-colour litho print, the group now offers personalised digital print, communication solutions, fulfilment and distribution, as well as online services.

These include web-to-print, collateral management and an innovative virtual storefront to streamline the process of corporate print ordering.

Buckland Media Group has also launched an innovative dimensional print finish using the latest Kodak digital-print technology.

This brings images and text to life, adding extra impact and effects to printed materials to improve the final quality.

SUPPORT

Appeal to our councillours

CHANNEL Chamber of Commerce has urged all successful candidates in the local elections to get behind east Kent businesses and help them to turn the area around.

The chamber has called for all councilors at both parish and district levels to get out and meet their local businesses and find out how they can best help and support them.

A spokesman said: "We want our local councils to adopt a 'can do' policy towards business, starting with a 'buy local' policy which they can adopt and also encourage their fellow public-sector partners to follow suit.

"The total budget of our councils, schools, colleges and hospitals comes to millions of pounds, and much of this should be spent with our local businesses.

"We also want our councillors to look towards the future of east Kent and make strong, bold decisions about regeneration and development. Businesses will be at the very heart of this agenda."

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Popular Battle of Britain tour draws visitors

MILITARY history and nostalgia tours are big business at the moment, and a highly popular one has just been reinstated on the county's coastline.

Battle of Britain fans are once again being offered the chance to join an expert-led tour of the area that saw much of the aerial action of 1940.

The Battle of Britain Memorial Trust has arranged another fascinating tour of the east Kent countryside on Saturday, June 4, when the public will be able to hear from Wing Commander Bob Foster, Hurricane pilot with No 605 Squadron during the battle.

The trust was unable to offer tours last year because of other commitments during the 70th anniversary year but has revived the events this year in response to demand

Some of the fiercest aerial combat of the battle took place in what became known as Hellfire Corner over the Folkestone and Dover area, and those who join the tour will hear tales of bravery and determination as the RAF defended the country against the Luftwaffe.

The tour guide is Geoff Simpson, a member of the RAF Historical Society and the author of many works on the battle, including A Dictionary Of The Battle Of Britain, published with the trust.

Mr Simpson, a Battle Of Britain Memorial trustee, will set the scene for the tour and provide a running commentary on a coach trip around sites associated with the battle.

Lunch will include the chance to hear from Wing Commander Foster, one of the surviving members of those Churchill epitomised as "The Few" and a life vice-president of the trust.

The tour is expected to take in the Swingate (Dover) Chain Home masts, the airfield site at Lympne and the village of Elham, site of a dump for German aircraft and many incidents during the Battle of Britain.

It will also visit the museum at Hawkinge, which has a remarkable collection of artefacts from the battle, and Hawkinge New Cemetery, where both British and German aircrew are buried.

The site that was chosen at Capel-le-Ferne for a national memorial played its part in both world wars.

Airships were moored there during the 1914-18 conflict, and in 1941 the construction of a gun battery began. Much of the personnel accommodation was underground, including a 'hospital' or large sick quarters.

By the end of 1942, naval pattern 8-inch guns had been installed in sites 40 feet deep, protected by concrete walls that were six to eight feet thick.

Legend has it that the first ranging shot from Capel-le-Ferne struck Dungeness. The Army left around 1952.

Places on the tours are limited and they go fast. For further information, you can visit www.battleofbritainmemorial.org.

ONE OF THE FEW: Wing Commander Bob Foster fought above Kent

A little socialising can go a long way to success

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

IN times when money is in short supply and companies are looking to streamline, what exactly are the benefits of taking clients and contacts for a day out to a cricket match, a football game or a race meeting?

Well, it shows you are doing well, for a start – potential new clients will be impressed and see that you're a caring company with the interests of your clients at heart.

Perhaps you'll want to take advantage of the corporate-hospitality events you can offer to loyal customers.

You may want to thank a particular client for placing a large order, for spending more with you, or for sticking with you during troubled times – it's a way to say thank you.

Or maybe you'll use a day out to thank your staff and colleagues for their working hard – you've all pulled together through tough times, so let's have some fun.

Just make sure everyone has a fantastic time and gets to know colleagues from other departments. That is bound to have a positive impact once you all get back in the office.

If you don't get to see all of your clients as often as you'd like, then corporate-hospitality events can be the ideal way to see many clients in one go.

Instead of spending hours driving or flying to see individual clients, why not get them all together, and see how much time and money you can save, while still having a great day out?

A shared interest is always important – get to know what your clients are keen on. There's no real point in taking someone for a day out watching Kent play cricket if they have no interest in the sport.

However, they don't need to be real fans – just have a knowledge of what is going on.

The sport, or cultural event, can just be a backdrop. It's almost a way to break the ice so that you can do deals in an informal situation.

A shared interest in an event going on as you speak is one way to remove barriers normally encountered when negotiating a big contract or making a business move.

And, of course, top-quality food and drink are sure to keep things nicely oiled.

BOTTOMS UP: Corporate events are key to making good contacts

> **It's a way to break the ice so you can do deals in an informal situation**
>
> SOCIAL EVENTS

WORD

Port Lympne event helps you go green

CHANNEL Chamber is holding an interactive green seminar in the beautiful setting of the mansion of Port Lympne to provide an assessment of environmental benefits to small businesses.

The workshop is sponsored by the British Standards Institution (BSI) and prepared and delivered by David Hall, managing director of Business Flow UK Limited.

The event aims to provide an introduction to environmental business improvement using the Carbon Hub and ISO 14001.

Kent County Council's Jenny Colville will be explaining the authority's South East Business Carbon Hub and the benefits of free registration.

An introduction to the work of the Aspinal Foundation will be followed by a talk from Andy Wilson, business development manager from the BSI, who will be showing you the way forward, how to certify and the benefits of environmental standards in your business.

Those attending the event can take part in a lunchtime buffet, have a tour of the zoo park, which includes endangered and rare animals from across the world, and will have the chance to do some networking with other members of the business community.

To book your place, phone Tracy Reynolds on 01303 270022. Member tickets are priced at £20 plus VAT, non-member tickets are £25 plus VAT.

Diversity gets farm out of a jam

FOURAYES Farm, the sole remaining English-owned Bramley apple-grower and processor, has been diversifying with the production of its own jam.

The move is part of the company's bid to ride out the economic downturn.

Phil Acock, managing director, said: "At Fourayes we go 'way beyond fruit' and with the economic climate still challenging we have diversified into a number of new market sectors, with jam being one of them.

"A year ago we made a significant investment into this side of the business with the installation of a vacuum production plant which allows us to deliver high-quality products with exceptional flavour and colour delivery and no caramelisation."

FUTURE: Options are vital

Fourayes specialises in bespoke jams made to specific application requirements and tolerances using a range of individual fruits or Bramley apple puree with English strawberries, raspberries or other fruits.

"We are already working with a number of customers providing jam, which is used in confectionary products such as doughnuts and scones and in products where spread-ability is a key requirement such as celebration cakes, in baked products such as jam tarts and for specialised products such as slices," said Acock.

Fourayes is a manufacturer and supplier of processed fruit and fillings, committed to supplying the highest-quality products.

A third-generation family business, Fourayes is the largest apple-processor and supplier in the UK.

The company processes more than 11,500 tonnes of Bramley apples every year, some 1,300 tonnes of which are grown in its orchards.

While Bramley apples make up a major part of the company's business, Fourayes also supplies a full range of fruit fillings, including mincemeat.

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Keep Kent Working! It's jobs for Kent 2011 Campaign

Flooring firm nailing down talent of future

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

A FLOORING and ceramic tiling company has set up its own training centre to address a skills shortage in the industry.

Ramsgate-based SW Flooring is helping to nurture the next generation of tradesmen in Thanet by offering free courses to Year 10 and 11 pupils from the local area, and has committed to employing at least one new trainee per year.

The company – run by managing director Simon Wallace, 42, and wife Concetta, 40 – also hosts workshops for flooring manufacturers who want to train staff on specific aspects of the trade.

For example, Pallmann Seals has already signed up to run a course from the centre on Wednesday, June 8.

Mr Wallace said: "If you want to progress your company you have to employ people, but we were struggling to find the right sort of worker because not enough young people were coming into the trade.

"When you ask young people what trade they want to learn they will tell you they want to be an electrician or a plumber, but never a floor-layer.

"I contacted a local college and said I would be happy to fund a floor-tiling course there, but they weren't really interested, so I decided to build my own centre and do it myself."

SW Flooring moved from Margate to new purpose-built premises in Ramsgate about 10 months ago, and has since formed partnerships with several local secondary schools.

The firm has been in existence for about 12 years, employs 12 members of staff and is an approved installer of all major floor manufacturers including Polyflor, Tarkett, Uzin, F Ball, Haro, and Altro.

Contracts recently completed by Mr Wallace's team include the refurbishment of floor coverings at Dover Discovery Centre and a similar project at the Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother (QEQM) Hospital in Margate.

Late last year it also completed work for fashion giant Calvin Klein and for the pharmaceutical firm Pfizer, which has a research site in Sandwich due to close next year.

The company, which also has a trade counter and showroom, is now seeking to receive accreditation from the official training board for the construction industry, CITB-ConstructionSkills.

Mr Wallace said: "We want to give pupils an insight into our trade so that they may consider a career in it once they come to leave school.

"The quality of their work has been out of this world so far, and I think it shows that they're interested in the work because we don't just sit them down in the meeting room and lecture them all day.

"For my business to grow I want to create my own staff, but I also want to get some enthusiasm back into these young people so that they end up with the same passion for the trade as I have. There are various training courses run by local government, but that passion isn't there.

"I also want to help the local Thanet economy grow. Even if a young person decides he or she doesn't want to become a floor-layer after taking part in one of our courses, they will still learn vital life skills that will serve them well in the future.

"We are short-listing the best students from each course and at the end of the year we will invite one back for a formal interview.

"We've committed ourselves to take on one new employee every year, but if the work continues to increase then we might be able to take on more."

SW Flooring is located at Unit 3, Hopes Lane, Pysons Road Industrial Estate, Ramsgate.

Call 01843 854411 or visit www.sw-flooring.co.uk for more information.

POTENTIAL: SW Flooring hopes to build a pool of talented floor-layers through its training centre. The company runs courses for local schoolchildren, while manufacturers are also taking advantage

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email steve.knight@archant.co.uk or give him a call on 01303 817136.

Academic approach to SME growth

KENT Business School has launched the only university research-led programme in the country for growing small and medium-sized enterprises.

The school, which comes under the umbrella of the University of Kent, is to offer business owners and managers a tailored package of courses aimed at raising performance using information gleaned from a four-year study into what drives SME improvement.

Dr Mark Gilman – director of the university's centre for employment, competitiveness and growth – said the research investigated drivers of growth in the region's smaller companies and evaluated how they changed over time.

"This research has directly informed our new programme for SMEs, which we believe makes it a unique offer from a UK university," he said.

"There is no doubt the demise of Regional Development Agencies and the reduced functionality of other regional business advisory bodies such as Business Link means there is an opportunity for higher education institutions to fill the gap.

"This is even more the case if universities can make use of research findings to inform their business development programmes. Universities have the potential to help their regional SMEs grow, and that has to be good for the UK economy in these difficult times."

Dr Gilman headed a four-year research study into SME performance from 2006-10 that was partly funded by the European Union.

Among the key findings of the Promoting Sustainable Performance study was evidence about the importance of a firm's ability to absorb and exploit knowledge.

According to Dr Gilman, firms that are open to external sources of advice and take advantage of opportunities for managerial learning and knowledge were found to seemingly outperform their competitors.

Kent Business School's new programme for the region's SMEs is known as The Big (Business Improvement and Growth) Journey.

It makes use of both business practitioners and academics to deliver a mix of masterclasses and personal coaching to businesses.

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Adult Learners' Week celebrated in county with Pitman promotions

PITMAN Training is celebrating Adult Learners' Week this week with a series of promotions at its centres across Kent.

The organisation is offering free course tasters and CV and interview workshops to people who want to get back into the world of work or boost their career prospects, with further incentives to those who enrol on a course or diploma.

Adult Learners' Week runs from Saturday, May 14, to Friday, May 20, and is being recognised at Pitman Training's centres in Bromley, Chatham, Dartford, Gravesend, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells.

One recent beneficiary of the service said: "After 15 years as a full-time mum of two, I decided it was time to go back to work in accounting.

"It looked like a daunting task but this is where Pitman Training and its fabulous team came to the rescue.

"They helped me to write my CV and talked me into being a confident interviewee."

Pitman Train runs more than 100 different courses at its centres across Kent, ranging from decision-making and faster keyboarding to internet skills and shorthand writing.

Anyone who signs up to a diploma will also receive a free student NUS card, offering discounts with a variety of high street chains.

Call 0800 0646 500 or visit www.pitmantrainingkent.com for more information.

South African adventure for young learner

A TEENAGER from Romney Marsh has won a three-week adventure in South Africa through the educational charity CVQO.

Christopher Meller, 18, was one of just nine youngsters selected out of 20,000 nominees, and made the final cut after completing an intensive programme of mental and physical tasks.

He was deemed worthy of the top award due to him possessing a wide range of skills and abilities while also having overcome personal challenges and demonstrated a consistently high level of commitment to his community and peers.

CVQO chief executive Edward Woods said: "It was a really tough job choosing just nine, but we are very confident our finalists will make a fantastic team in South Africa.

"In addition to a raft of other qualifications, all participants have gained BTEC diplomas with CVQO and cite this learning experience as invaluable to their future educational and career development."

Christopher, who is an air cadet at 2513 (Romney Marsh) Squadron Air Training Corps, will now attend an awards ceremony and luncheon in June. He will also find out at the event if he has won the annual Duke of Westminster Award, which was created to recognise the organisation's most outstanding learner.

CVQO is an educational charity that helps young people and volunteers gain internationally-recognised qualifications.

It recently teamed up with the Tunbridge Wells-based Challenger Troop organisation – a youth inclusion programme for disaffected young people in Kent – to offer its members a second chance at learning.

PRIZE: Christopher Meller is off to South Africa

Challenger Troop teams manager Jo Morris said: "It has been fantastic to see so many of our young people achieve something so positive which they have worked for themselves.

"We are extremely grateful to CVQO for facilitating this, as many of these young people may not achieve other formal qualifications. This is a huge step forward for them."

Visit www.cvqo.org for more information.

Come and find a course that suits you at MidKent College open days

MIDKENT College will be holding open evenings at its Maidstone and Medway campuses this month.

Those who attend will be able to find out more about courses, view facilities and pick up the latest course guides.

The Maidstone campus event will take place on Monday, May 16, from 5.30-7.30pm, while the Medway event will be on Thursday, May 19, from 6-8pm.

All visitors are asked to attend the college campus which runs the course they are interested in.

The Maidstone campus is situated in Tonbridge Road while the Medway campus is in Medway Road, Gillingham.

Limited parking will be available on site for those who attend the Medway campus event, but a college-funded shuttle bus service will be available from the Dockside Outlet Centre.

The vehicle, which is branded with the MidKent College logo, will run every 15 minutes to and from the Medway campus, and can be caught from the back of Dickens World.

Alternatively, for visitors travelling by bus, the Arriva 116 service stops directly on campus. On-site parking is available for blue badge holders.

Full details of all courses taught at MidKent College are available from the course information line on 01634 402020, or on the college website www.midkent.ac.uk.

MidKent College's dedicated training consultancy provides a professional service that is dedicated to the needs of local companies. Training courses can be delivered in-company or in the first class facilities available at the College.

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For further details about these posts and other vacancies, visit catch-22.org.uk

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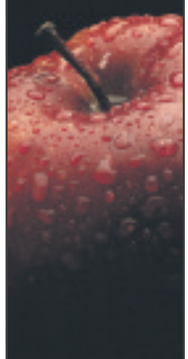

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Church of England School Humanities College

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Tel: 01474 533082
Fax: 01474 533844
HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Southgate BDAKC

Church of England, Voluntary Aided, Humanities College, 11-18, Mixed, Wide Ability School

RECEPTIONIST

Full time (37 hours per week)
Term Time Only plus 5 days
Salary Kent Range 3
(pro rata equals £11,897 to £13,619 pa)

Due to the retirement of the current post holder, we are seeking an experienced Receptionist to join our Main Office Administration team. Applicants will need to have strong administrative, customer service and communication skills to work with our variety of stakeholders.

Saint George's is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All appointments are subject to List 99 and enhanced CRB checks.

Please contact the school to request further details and an application form quoting ref:KOS1 (Email thomsonm@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk) or visit our website www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date: 24 May 2011

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To apply, please send your letter of application and CV to Alan Barham, Headteacher, or email to debbie.myers@sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk..

CLOSING DATE: 13 May 2011

Interviews to be held on Thursday 26th May 2011

The Sittingbourne Community College
Swanstree Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME1O 4NL
Tel: 01795-472449 Fax: 01795-470332
Email: office@sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk
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LEAD LEARNING SUPPORT PRACTITIONER
To lead a team of Learning Support Practitioners in a specific vocational or academic area.
SALARY SCALE: £13,188 - £15,583 FOR 35 HOURS, 38 WEEKS PER YEAR

LEARNING ZONE TEAM LEADER
To lead on the provision and promotion of learning resources and facilities within the College's open learning centre and resources library
SALARY SCALE: £19,659 - £23,040 FOR 37 HOURS PER WEEK, ALL YEAR

MARKETING ASSISTANT.
To assist the College's operational marketing and public relations activities particularly promotion, e-marketing, social media, media relations and brand guardianship.
SALARY SCALE: £7,990 - £8,896 FOR 18.5 HOURS PER WEEK ALL YEAR

SKILLS PRACTITIONER - HAIR & BEAUTY
To provide Learning/Technical support to staff and students and undertake assessment and quality assurance duties as required by the College and awarding bodies
SALARY SCALE: £9,933 - £11,738 FOR 27 HOURS PER WEEK, 37 WEEKS PER YEAR

SKILLS PRACTITIONER - MOTOR VEHICLE
To provide Learning/Technical support to staff and students and undertake assessment and quality assurance duties as required by the College and awarding bodies
SALARY SCALE: £8,567 - £10,123 FOR 18.5 HOURS PER WEEK, ALL YEAR

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'About Us', then 'Vacancies'.
If you require assistance please call HR on (01843) 605052

Closing date for the above posts: **: Wednesday 25th May 2011**

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Innovations & ICT Technician
37 hours per week/term time only
Kent Scheme 7/8 - Starting salary £17,200 p.a.

Probably a Graduate with good Apple Mac/Media skills, we are looking for you to work as part of a team to promote innovative use of all aspects of ICT including web site management and multi-media in the curriculum and throughout the school. You will provide hands on support in the classroom with staff and students both in and out of school hours. You will also provide ICT Technician support across the school, leading a team of Domain Assistants to deliver efficient day-to-day ICT services.

Learning Resource Co-Ordinator
37.00 hours per week/term time only
Kent Scheme Grade 5 £14170 p.a.

To support both the School Library and the wider aspects of an IT literate school information and innovation skills are key to this role. The development of our new state of the art Learning Resources Centre impacts on every area of the school with extended and out of hours learning opportunities through both printed and electronic media. Applicants will be educated to at least A Level with good numeracy and literacy abilities.

Learning Resource Assistant
37.00 hours per week/term time only
Kent Scheme Grade 4 £13,476 p.a.

Working alongside the Learning Resource Co-Ordinator this is an ideal opportunity to gain experience of the wide aspects of an IT literate school in supporting learning and innovation through the development of all aspects of the Learning Resources Centre - both printed and electronic media - and throughout the school. This postholder will also provide basic ICT support to our Creative & Media Domain.

Full job descriptions and application form available on our website at www.northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk. Application by fully completed application form with supporting letter to Mrs S Chisholm at Northfleet School for Girls, Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ - email: personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk.
Tel: 01474 831020

Applicants will be subject to a full CRB check.
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HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - District of Ashford

A28 ROLVENDEN ROAD, TENTERDEN & A20 MAIDSTONE ROAD, ASHFORD (10 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and workforce whilst roadworks are carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order imposing a temporary maximum speed limit of 10 miles per hour on Various Roads, Ashford, on or after 16 May 2011 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The roads affected are as follows

A28 ROLVENDEN ROAD, TENTERDEN between Cranbrook Road and Rolvenden Level Crossing
Planned for 18 May then 25 May 2011

A20 MAIDSTONE ROAD, ASHFORD between the Orchard Heights Roundabout and Leacon Lane, Charing
Planned for 19 & 20 May then 26 & 27 May 2011

This Order applies when the relevant signs are on display, and will be used in conjunction with temporary traffic lights and a "Convoy System" to escort traffic through roadworks during repairs and resurfacing.

The speed limit will only be implemented at such times when it is not safe to work without this restriction.

These works are weather dependent, and the timing may be affected by adverse conditions.

BETHERSDEN ROAD, SMARDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bethersden Road, Smarden, on or after 20 May 2011 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Romden Road and Luckhurst Lane.

The alternative route is via Bethersden Road, Buffalo Lane and Romden Road.

CHURCH LANE, ALDINGTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of electricity cabling works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Lane, Aldington, on or after 16 May 2011 for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in rolling sections in the vicinity of Sellindge Converter Station and the motorway bridge.

The alternative route is via A20 Hythe Road, Station Road, Goldwell Lane and Roman Road.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

UPPER CHANTRY LANE & OATEN HILL, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install ducting and power cables to upgrade the electricity network, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting *westbound* through traffic on Upper Chantry Lane & Oaten Hill, Canterbury, on or after 15 May 2011 for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The roads will be closed westbound only, between the junctions with A2050 New Dover Road and Old Dover Road.

The alternative route for westbound traffic is via A257 St George's Place, A28 Upper Brdge Street and Old Dover Road.

Oaten Hill and Upper Chantry Lane will become One-way only, from Old Dover Road towards New Dover Road.

ST STEPHEN'S LEVEL CROSSING, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of track maintenance and renewal works at St Stephen's Level Crossing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on St Stephen's Road, Canterbury, on or after 4 June 2011 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.
The road will be closed at the level crossing.
The alternative route is via St Stephen's Road, North Lane, St Dunstan's Street, Forty Acres Road, Beaconsfield Road and St Stephen's Green.

It is planned the closure will take effect from Saturday 4 June 2011 at 11.30 pm until Monday 6 June 2011 at 5.00 am.

This Order remains in force for up to 18 months and can be re-implemented if required for works of a similar nature.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

VARIOUS ROADS, DARTFORD - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on various roads, Dartford as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 30th May 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 5th June 2011 and last 1 day between 07.30 – 10.30. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

Schedule 1

Road Name:	St Clements Way
Extent:	Northbound traffic prohibited between Bluewater Parkway and A202 roundabout
Road Name:	A2026 Crossways Boulevard
Extent:	Westbound traffic prohibited between St Clements Way and B3228 Cotton Lane
Road Name:	B3228 Cotton Lane
Extent:	Southbound traffic prohibited between A2026 Crossways Boulevard and A226 London Road
Road Name:	Cotton Lane
Extent:	No left turn onto B3228 Cotton Lane
Road Name:	A226 London Road
Extent:	Eastbound traffic prohibited between B2328 Cotton Lane and St Clements Way

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate Bluewater Sweatshop 10K.

HIGHWAYS - East Kent

VARIOUS ROADS, KENT (50 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow maintenance works to be carried out in safety on high speed roads, Kent County Council intends to make an Order imposing a temporary mandatory speed limit of 50 mph on Various Roads, Kent, on or after 4 April 2011 for up to 1 year or until the works have been completed.

The roads affected are as shown below.
A299 THANET WAY – from M2 Brenley Corner Roundabout to B2190 Minster Road roundabout

A28 CANTERBURY ROAD, THANET – from A299 Thanet Way to Seamark Road, Birchington

A256 DOVER ROAD – From A2 to the Dover Road roundabout

A256 SANDWICH BYPASS – From Stoner Cut Bridge to the A257 Sandwich Road Roundabout

LYDDEN HILL, LYDDEN, DOVER – From junction with Swanton Lane to junction with A2

A2042 ROMNEY MARSH ROAD, ASHFORD – From the A2070 Bad Munstereifiel Road to Roundabout with Malcolm Sargent Road
From the roundabout with Malcolm Sargent Road to the existing 40mph speed restriction 250 metres from the Forestall Meadow Roundabout
From the roundabout with Malcolm Sargent Road to the existing 40pmh speed restriction 250 metres south of the roundabout with the B2229 Norman Road

A20 FOUGERES WAY, ASHFORD – From A20 Maidstone Road (Drovers Roundabout) to roundabout at Junction 9 of the M20

A20 MAIDSTONE ROAD, ASHFORD – From Orchard Heights Roundabout to the junction with Sandyhurst Lane.

This Order is in force on the respective roads when the relevant signs are displayed on site.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (BOUGHTON LANE, MAIDSTONE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Boughton Lane from Paynes Lane to outside number 60 and at the corner of Boughton Lane adjacent to Eddington Close on or after Sunday 22nd May 2011 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via The alternative route for Boughton Lane is A229 Loose Road, A229 Linton Road, Linton Crossroads, B2163 Heath Road Linton, Church Street Boughton Monchelsea, Beresford Hill, Bottlescrew Hill, Boughton Lane and vice versa. This route is not suitable for Large Goods Vehicles.

Walker Construction (UK) Ltd apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for carriageway resurfacing and road markings. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Andy Pilcher on 01303 851111.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

CHILDSBRIDGE LANE, SEAL - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Childsbridge Lane, Seal between Castle Drive and The Sheilings.

The Order will become effective on 30th May 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 31st May 2011 and last 1 week. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Childsbridge Lane Kemsing, Pilgrims Way East Keming, Pilgrims Way East Otford, A225 Station Road Otford, A225 High Street Otford, A225 Sevenoaks Road Otford, A225 Otford Road Sevenoaks, A25 Seal Road Sevenoaks, A25 High Street Seal, School Lane Seal and Childsbridge Lane Seal.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate resurfacing works.

HEVER WARREN ROAD, HEVER - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Hever Warren Road, Hever between Station Road and Hartfield Road.

The Order will become effective on 30th May 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 5th June 2011 and last 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Station Road, Uckfield Lane, Cowden Pound Road and Hartfield Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate road excavation for new electric supply

MANOR LANE, ASH CUM RIDLEY - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Manor Lane, Ash Cum Ridley at its junction with Butchers Lane.

The Order will become effective on 30th May 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 31st May 2011 and last 4 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Chapel Wood Road, Ash Road, Hartley Road, Main Road and Fawkham Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate excavation for new electric supply.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

HILLSIDE STREET, HYTHE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new gas supply to Varne Court, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hillside Street, Hythe, on or after 16 May 2011 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between number 32 and "Bella Vista".

The alternative route is via Lucy's Hill, North Road, Station Road (Tanners Hill in reverse), Dental Street and Hillside Street.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Swale

THROWLEY ROAD, THROWLEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of electricity cabling works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Throwley Road, Throwley, on or after 16 May 2011 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Leaveland Belles Forstal and Housefield Road.

The alternative route is via Leaveland Belles Forstal, A251 Ashford Road, Broomfield Lane and Housefield Road.

NORTON ROAD, NORTON, FAVERSHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow BT access to chambers for gulley cleaning, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Norton Road, Norton, Faversham, on or after 1 June 2011 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with London Road and Lewson Street Road.

The alternative route is via A2 London Road and Provender Lane

STAPLE STREET, BOUGHTON UNDER BLEAN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Staple Street, Boughton Under Blean, on or after 30 May 2011 for up to 17 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in phases as shown below

Phase 1 - between the junctions with Church Hill and Bull Lane, from 30 May 2011 for 4 weeks

Phase 2 - between the junctions with Bull Lane and the entrance to Farming World, from 27 June 2011 for up to 11 weeks

The alternative route for these phases is via Staplestreet Road, The Street, Canterbury Road, A2 Boughton By-pass, Brenley Corner, A299 Thanet Way, Whitstable Road and Staplestreet Road.

Phase 3 - from the London-bound carriageway of the A299 Thanet Way to the Staple Street Road overbridge, from 15 August 2011 for up to 2 weeks.

The alternative route for this phase is via A299 Thanet Way to Brenley Corner, A2 Boughton By-pass Canterbury Road, Stockers Hill, Bull Lane and Staple Street.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CHAPEL ROAD, RAMSGATE) (ONE WAY TRAFFIC) ORDER 2011

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, THANET) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT NO 35) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Orders under sections 1(1) and (2), 2(1) and (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Orders will have the following effect:-

CHAPEL ROAD, RAMSGATE To be made one way in an easterly direction. From a point in line with the access road to Claremont Gardens to the junction with High Street St. Lawrence

CHAPEL ROAD, RAMSGATE Introduce a new prohibition of waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on the northern side of Chapel Road. From the eastern boundary of 18 Chapel Road to the common boundary of 24 and 26 Chapel Road.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of the council's reasons for proposing to make the Orders, may be examined on Mondays to Fridays in the offices of Thanet District Council, Cecil Street, Margate and at Sessions House, Maidstone at normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Orders you should send the grounds in writing to:

The Transportation and Development Manager, East Kent Area, Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD.
Or by email to td.eastkent@kent.gov.uk
By 12 noon on Monday 6th June 2011.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

HIGHWAYS

STATION ROAD, WESTGATE-ON-SEA (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of repairs to potholes, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Station Road, Westgate-on-Sea, on or after 18 May 2011 for up to 1 evening, or until the works have been completed.

It is planned the works will be carried out between the hours of 6.00 pm and 11.00 pm.

The road will be closed between the junctions with St Mildred's Road and Roxburgh Road.

The alternative route is via St Mildred's Road, Westgate Bay Avenue and Roxburgh Road.

CANTERBURY ROAD, ST NICHOLAS AT WADE (50 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and workforce whilst roadworks are carried out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to impose a temporary mandatory speed limit of 50 mph on Canterbury Road, St Nicholas at Wade, on or after 1 June 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The section of A28 Canterbury Road affected is from St Nicholas Roundabout for a distance of approximately 1900 metres eastbound.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

VARIOUS ROADS, WEST KINGSDOWN AND STANSTED - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event takes place on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on various roads, West Kingsdown and Stansted as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 16th May 2011. It will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The restriction will be effective when required and when the appropriate signage is in place. The restrictions are planned to commence 19th May 2011 and last 4 days.

Schedule 1

Restriction:	30mph Speed Limit
Road Name:	A20 London Road, West Kingsdown
Extent:	Between Pells Lane and Plaxtol Green Road
Road Name:	Ash Lane / South Ash Road, Stansted
Extent:	Between A20 London Road and Pease Hill
Restriction:	Temporary One Way Order
Road Name:	Ash Lane, Stansted
Extent:	Between A20 London Road and Stansted Lane
Diversion:	Stansted Lane A20 London Road
Road Name:	Stansted Lane, West Kingsdown
Extent:	Between Ash Lane and the entrance to Golf Course
Diversion:	A20 London Road and Ash Lane

The purpose of the restrictions is to facilitate Golf Live 2011.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (STANSTED HILL, STANSTED) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Stansted Hill, between Fairseat Lane and Plaxdale Green Lane on or after Monday 30th May 2011 when required for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Vigo Road, Platt House Lane, Wrotham Hill Road, Tumblefield Road, Plaxdale Green Road.

South East Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to install pipework. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Anthony Kavanagh on 01634 276409.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (GOODS STATION ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Goods Station Road outside Fenwick Store on or after Sunday 22nd May 2011 for a period of up to 1 night between 18:00hrs and 06:00hrs or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Victoria Road, Garden Road, Lansdowne Road, Calverley Road, Monson Road, Mount Pleasant Road, Grosvenor Road, Goods Station Road.

Baldwins Crane Hire apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to lift air conditioning units onto Fenwick's roof. Should you require any further information for these works, please contact Mark Goddard on 0207 511 2600.

Katherine Kerswell
Group Managing Director
Invicta House, County Hall
Maidstone
Kent, ME14 1XQ **Dated 13th May 2011**

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

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PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

PROW - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATHS WT297 (PART) & WT299 (PART), BRENCHLEY) PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

The above Order, made under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 will divert the entire width of that length of public footpath numbered WT297, which commences at NGR TQ 6657 3888 (point A) and runs southwards for 149.5 metres to NGR TQ 6657 3873 (point B). (Between points A-B on the Order plan) to a new length of footpath WT297 with a width of 2.0 metres, which commences at the aforementioned point A and runs eastwards for 130 metres, thence southwards for 34.5 metres and thence westwards for 80.0 metres to its connection with the newly numbered footpath WT423 at the aforementioned point C.

The above Order, made under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 will also divert the entire width of that length of public footpath numbered WT299, which commences at NGR TQ 6649 3871 (point D) and runs north-eastwards for 348.0 metres to NGR TQ 6679 3841 (point C). (Between points A-B-C on the Order plan) to a new length of public footpath numbered WT299 with a width of 2.0 metres, which commences at the aforementioned point D and runs north-north-westwards for 122.0 metres and thence north-eastwards for 134.0 metres to its connection with footpath WT297 at the aforementioned point A.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the offices of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1RS or at the Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

Any representations about or objections to the Order may be sent in writing to Mrs Maria McLauchlan at the Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX (Tel: 01622 696871) before 13th June 2011. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

If no representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, Kent County Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH WC138 (PART) CRANBROOK) PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

On 5 May 2011 Kent County Council confirmed the above Order under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to divert the entire width of that length of public footpath numbered WC138 which commences at NGR TQ 7755 3980 (Point A) on the Order Plan, and runs in a west south-westerly direction for 110 metres to NGR TQ 7744 3978 (Point B). Between Points A-B on the Order Plan; and will add a new length of public footpath numbered WC138 with a width of 2.5 metres which commences at NGR TQ 7755 3980 (Point A) on the Order Plan, and runs in a west south-westerly direction for 110 metres to NGR TQ 7744 3979 (Point C). Between Points A-C on the Order Plan.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, The Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB or the Kent County Council, Environment & Waste at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

The Order comes into force on 6 June 2011, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question its validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act which has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the 15 May 2011, make an application to the High Court.

For detailed enquiries please contact:
Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX
Tel: 01622 221971 **Dated: 15 May 2011**

The above notice(s) may be provided in other formats

For further information, please contact Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

KATHLEEN ALICE STODDART
DECEASED

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 Section 27 NOTICE is given that all creditors and others having any claims against or claiming to be beneficially interested in the estate of the aforementioned deceased late of 47 Baldwin Road, Greatstone, Kent TN28 8SY who died on 22nd November 2010 are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 9th July 2011 after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Scott Rowe Solicitors
Chard Street, Axminster, Devon EX13 5DS

Application for a New Premises Licence at Designer Outlet Ashford

The Application for a New Premises Licence Ongoing
Name of Applicant: Ashford Investor (General Partner) Limited

Address of the premises where the event will be held:
Designer Outlet Ashford, Management Suite, Kimberley Way, Ashford, Kent TN24 0SD

The relevant licensable activities which are proposed to be carried out from the above premises are:
1) Plays
2) Films
3) Indoor sporting events
4) Live music
5) Recorded music
6) Performances of dance
7) Anything of a similar description to that falling within 4-6 above
8) Making music
9) Dancing
10) Anything of a similar description to that falling within 8-9 above
11) Provision of late night refreshment

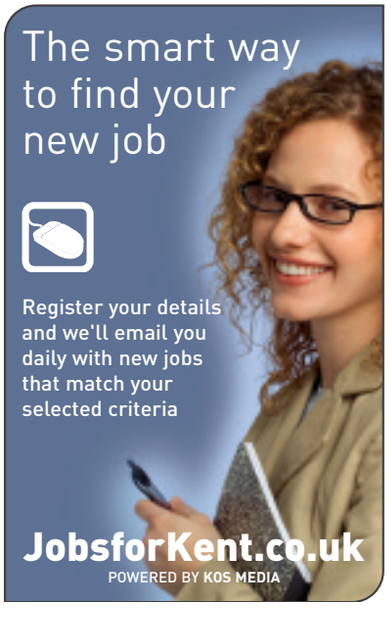
The register of licences held by Ashford Borough Council is kept at the Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL (where it may be inspected in the normal office hours of the Council) and at www.ashford.gov.uk.

The date by which an interested party or responsible authority may make representations to the relevant licensing authority is 03/06/2011.

Representations shall be made in writing to Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is £5000.

To advertise in this section 01303 817040



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COUNCIL NOTICES

Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act (2004)
Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 - Regulation 25

Tunbridge Wells Borough Local Development Framework
Notice of public participation on the Review of the Core Strategy

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council is currently preparing the following Development Plan Document as part of its Local Development Framework:

- **Core Strategy Review** - to review elements of the Core Strategy adopted in June 2010. The Core Strategy sets out the Council's long-term aims for new development in the Borough, as well as the fundamental principles with which proposals for development must comply. Critically, the Core Strategy sets out how much development will happen and broadly where it will go, although it does not identify specific development sites.
- **Sustainability Appraisal** - to qualitatively assess the initial options in the Core Strategy Review against 15 sustainability objectives.

Public consultation commences **on Monday 16 May 2011** and runs for six weeks **until Sunday 26 June 2011**. The Borough Council will host presentations and exhibitions at various locations around the Borough during May. The dates and venues for these are as follows:

Date	Venue	Times
Wednesday 18 May	Vestry Hall, Cranbrook	Doors Open: 5.30pm Presentation @ 7pm Doors Close: 9pm
Thursday 19 May	St Laurence's Church, Hawkhurst	
Saturday 21 May	Camden Centre, Royal Tunbridge Wells	Doors Open: 1pm Presentation @ 1.30pm Doors Close: 4.30pm
Wednesday 25 May	Mascalls School, Paddock Wood	Doors Open: 5.30pm Presentation @ 7pm Doors Close: 9pm

The consultation will consist of consultation documents and response forms, which can be viewed and downloaded, along with the supporting documentation, at www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/csr, or you can respond directly online at http://consult.tunbridgewells.gov.uk. The documents can also be viewed at the following locations for those without access to a computer:

- **Tunbridge Wells Gateway**, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2AB. The Gateway is open from 9am-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday; 9am-6.30pm on Thursdays; and 9am-1.30pm on Saturdays
- **Weald Information Centre**, The Old Fire Station, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3HF, open from 8.30am-5pm (Monday to Friday)
- **All libraries** in the Tunbridge Wells Borough area. Please check with the particular library for opening times

Representations can be returned as follows:

1) Online at http://consult.tunbridgewells.gov.uk
2) By e-mail to planning.policy@tunbridgewells.gov.uk (using the editable response form)
3) By post to Planning Policy, Planning Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RS (using a printed response form)
4) By fax to 01892 554076 (using a printed response form)

Representations must be made in writing (including electronically) and be received by **midnight on Sunday 26 June 2011** at the addresses specified in (1) to (4) above. All representations made in the above ways will be taken into account in the preparation of the Core Strategy Review. For more information, please go to www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/csr.

COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCES

Members Allowances' Scheme 2011/12
In accordance with The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 No. 1021 Part 3 (16) the Council is required after making or amending a scheme to make arrangements for its publication. Full Council on 19 February 2009 considered the recommendations of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel and agreed a phased adoption from 2009/10 thereby complying with its duty under regulation 19. Full details are available on the Council's website www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk under About the Council, Council Finances and Members' Allowances and Expenses. The basic and special responsibility allowances payable under the Members' Allowance Scheme for the financial year 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012 are as follows;

Post	Allowance (£)
Basic Allowance for all Councillors	5,279
Minority Group Leader	2,148 plus £100 per member
Special Responsibility Allowances	
Leader	16,750
Cabinet Member	8,990
Lead Member	2,760
Chairman of Scrutiny Select Committee	5,279
Chairman of Licensing	1,980
Chairman of General Purposes	1,980
Chairman of Joint Transportation Board	1,980
Chairman of Standards Committee	1,980
Chairman of Audit Committee	1,980
Chairman of Planning Committee	5,279
Vice Chairman of Scrutiny Select Committee	1,320
Vice Chairman of Licensing	495
Vice Chairman of General Purposes	495
Vice Chairman of Joint Transportation Board	495
Vice Chairman of Standards Committee	495
Vice Chairman of Audit Committee	495
Vice Chairman of Planning Committee	1,320
Other Allowances	
Co-opted Members of Standards Committee and Independent Members of Audit Committee	800

All allowances have been frozen with the exception of the Basic Allowance.

Only one Special Responsibility Allowance may be claimed in addition to the Basic Allowance.

In accordance with Part 3 (13) of the Regulations any member may elect to forgo all or part of his/her entitlement to allowances by notifying the Head of Finance and Governance.

In addition, the following travel and subsistence allowances are also payable under the Members' Allowances Scheme:-

Childcare and Dependent Carers' Allowance
An allowance for any approved duty of £6 per hour

Travel Allowance Rates:
Rates are those published by the National Joint Council for 2010/11 and frozen for 2011/12, but re-imbursement will be limited to comparable costs of using public transport where the Head of Finance and Governance determines that public transport was a practical alternative.

	451-999cc	1000-1199cc	1200-1450cc
Travel by car	46.9p	52.2p	65.0p

Plus 5p per mile per passenger carried.
Travel by Bus, Rail and Taxi will be the actual standard fare paid. Travel by cycle 20p per mile.

Subsistence Allowances:
Rates are those published by the South East Employers for 2010/11 and frozen for 2011/12 and based upon submission of a receipt up to a maximum of:-

Breakfast £6.88
Lunch £9.50
Dinner £11.76
Accommodation: reasonable actual cost

Allowances Paid during the 2010/11 Financial Year under the 2010/11 Members' Allowance Scheme
In accordance with The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 No. 1021 Part 3 (15) the Council is required as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of a financial year to make arrangements for the publication in their area of the total sum paid to each member in respect of the following allowances; basic, special responsibility, carers', travelling/subsistence and co-optees'.

The amounts paid can be viewed on the website www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk under About the Council, Council Finances and Transparency on Spend.

Paper copies of any of the above documents can also be provided by contacting Samantha Timms, Senior Committee Administrator, on 01892 554219. These documents can also be viewed during office hours at the Gateway customer centre in Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells.

Lee M. Colyer CPFA
Head of Finance & Governance (s151 Officer)
Town Hall
Royal Tunbridge Wells
Kent TN1 1RS

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TERMS & CONDITIONS

ARCHANT KOS MEDIA LTD
TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene any existing legislation and in particular the Trade and Description Act 1968 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974.
2. It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and Archant KOS Media Ltd (the "media owner") takes no responsibility for liability in errors and omissions to the content of our media.
3. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
4. All rates within the annual advertising agreement will be rate protected for 12 months from the first date of publication under the signed agreement.
5. Any unsuitable material posted on any website belonging to Archant KOS Media Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be removed or refused. All passwords and security supplied to the advertiser by Archant KOS Media Ltd in relation to the use of the posting of material via the media owner's online administration tool will be the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser indemnifies Archant KOS Media Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.
6. Archant KOS Media Ltd reserves the right to change passwords intermittently to ensure the overall and ongoing security of its websites within the public domain.
7. Copyright and licenses for voice-over/music/photography or film for advertising promotions or otherwise within the various forms of media in print, online and moving film owned by Archant KOS Media Ltd must have been sought, verified or paid for by the advertiser where applicable. Approval or permissions must have been given by any potential beneficial owner voice-over or music. The advertiser must be able to verify any statements or claims (promotional or otherwise) in relation to their products/services promoted within any of the media offerings belonging to Archant KOS Media Ltd.
8. Where shrinkage of an advertisement occurs for whatever reason, the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre where it relates to the media owner's printed publications. This will NOT apply to full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.
9. Archant KOS Media Ltd reserves the right to omit or refuse any advertisement/commercial/web content without notice or explanation. In these terms the word "advertiser" shall be construed to include any person or organisation placing an advertisement on behalf of another.
10. A guarantee of insertion cannot be given and the media owners shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error inaccuracy within your marketing content. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged by the media owners for that advertising.
11. No liability is accepted for any loss or damage alleged to have arisen through delay in forwarding replies to Box numbers, however caused, nor for the loss or damage to any artwork supplied.
12. Claims for any error or inaccuracy in your media messages with Archant KOS Media Ltd must be made in writing to the accounts department within 10 days of publishing.
13. Archant KOS Media Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.
14. Archant KOS Media Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. Archant KOS Media Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to claim damages for any potential vexatious action via the advertiser.
15. Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to them in writing.
16. A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from Archant KOS Media's standard effective media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009) will be recalculated and adjusted accordingly in line with Archant KOS Media's standard media rate card (effective July 2008-June 2009) and will reflect the revised length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser as per Archant KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009). Discounts will be reapplied and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' written notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
17. Seasonal contracts, Your Professional classified advertisements or any uplift advertising within the annual contract with the advertiser will be invoiced in full - at rate card - on receipt of any written cancellation of this contract within the 12-months.
18. All uplift advertisements must be booked in at least three months in advance of publication and will be subject to availability. All dates booked will be on a firstcome, first-served basis.
19. The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of any online TV advertising commercial supplied by Archant KOS Media Ltd within the advertiser's agreement, (Platinum, Gold, Silver standard of commercial). Should, for any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 48 hours), Archant KOS Media Ltd reserves the right to charge for any further TV production at its standard published hourly rate should the advertiser still wish to use Archant KOS Media Ltd's production services to complete its TV commercial or photographic imagery included in the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will approve and accept that there are only two choices of voice-over and music offered by Archant KOS Media Ltd. Should an advertiser wish to use other voice-overs or non-copyright free music it is the responsibility of the advertiser to pay the PRS rights should they be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in Archant KOS Media Ltd being given permission by the advertiser to replace the TV commercial with pictures or stills from a choice of photography supplied by the media owner until the advertiser can supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of their membership. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.
20. Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within Archant KOS Media Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc) other than they will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
21. Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of Archant KOS Media Ltd and any action as a result of the public or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims resulting from this via Archant KOS Media Ltd must be met by the advertiser.
22. a. All credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 30th day following the date of the invoice, time to be of the essence. All sums due to Archant KOS Media Ltd shall be paid in full, and the Advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.
    b. In the event that payment is not received by Archant KOS Media Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract and make any surcharges for breaking the contract.
    c. In the event that payment is not received by Archant KOS Media Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.
    d. Not withstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of Archant Archant KOS Media Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
    e. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by Archant KOS Media Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.
    f. Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
23. Any discount which Archant KOS Media Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
24. Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
25. All private advertisements and certain categories as laid down by Archant KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.
26. The Advertiser agrees to indemnify Archant KOS Media Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the companies within the Archant KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
27. An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
28. Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belong to Archant KOS Media Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's written consent.

All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. Archant KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.
Effective from June 2008

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PLANNING

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13

KCC/AS/0106/2011 - Proposed development at Woodleas Farm, Goldwell Lane, Aldington, Ashford, Kent, TN25 7DX.

R.H. Butler Ltd is applying to the Kent County Council for planning permission for proposed change of use from a skip depot to a waste transfer depot with construction of a new building, provision of a portacabin and a weighbridge.

You may view this application at our offices at the address below during all reasonable office hours. Alternatively, the application documents can be viewed via a computer link using Kent County Council's website shown below, at the following locations:-

a) Ashford Borough Council, Central Reception in the Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford
b) The Gateway Centre, 14 Park Mall, Ashford
c) Tenterden Gateway, 2 Manor Row, High Street, Tenterden

KCC/TM/0195/2011 - Proposed development at East Peckham Quarry, Hale Street, East Peckham, Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 5HL.

J Clubb Ltd is applying to the Kent County Council for planning permission for retention of rail sidings for permanent use to import construction aggregates and relocation of ready-mix concrete plant. The proposed development does not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated. The proposed development also affects a public right of way.

You may view this application at Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ or at our offices at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

KCC/AS/0216/2011 - Proposed development at Bethersden Primary School, School Road, Bethersden, Ashford, Kent, TN26 3AH.

Kent County Council is applying to the Kent County Council for planning permission to renew planning permission for a 5 bay mobile on site. The proposed development is within the Bethersden Conservation Area and is likely to affect its character and/or appearance, and also affects the setting of a listed building.

You may view this application at our offices at the address below during all reasonable office hours. Alternatively, the application documents can be viewed via a computer link using Kent County Council's website shown below, at the following locations:-

a) Ashford Borough Council, Central Reception in the Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford
b) The Gateway Centre, 14 Park Mall, Ashford
c) Tenterden Gateway, 2 Manor Row, High Street, Tenterden

KCC/TM/0175/2011 - Proposed development at Woodlands Children Centre (former St James the Great Primary School), Chapman Way, East Malling, Kent, ME19 6SD.

Kent County Council is applying to the Kent County Council Planning Applications Group for planning permission for the construction of a proposed accessible ramp and steps to the main pedestrian entrance off Chapman Way. The proposed development is within the Clare Park Conservation Area and could affect its character and/or appearance.

You may view this application at Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ or at our offices at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

Alternatively, details of the application can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/planning.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 15 May

To advertise in this section
01303 817040

PLANNING

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

11/01168/HOUSE The Old Livery Stables The Green, Benenden
- Satellite dish (LB) (CA)

11/01205/FUL Benenden Girls School Cranbrook Road, Benenden
- Proposed extension over flat roof element to the rear of 'Splash' to provide an office (LB)

11/01226/LBC Hill House The Hill, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Listed Building Consent: Demolition of 1940/50's toilet block between main house and medieval clothier work hall. Repair and restore as much as is reasonably possible to previous original state. Replace single door from rear wall of entrance hallway with pair of partly glazed doors and install two windows to the first floor to the rear; Reinstate protective railing to front elevation (LB)

1/01165/HOUSE Down Hall House Slip Mill Lane, Hawkhurst
- Erection of a first floor extension above the existing structure to form a master bedroom and bathroom (CA)

11/01233/LBC Royal Oak Hotel Rye Road, Hawkhurst
- Listed Building Consent - Reduce bar servery area; Increase size of function room; Re-positioning of commercial kitchen; Create new toilet accommodation for function room (LB)

11/01202/HOUSE Lambkyns School House Lane, Horsmonden
- Conversion of detached barn to annexe (LB)

11/01206/LBC Lambkyns School House Lane, Horsmonden
- Listed Building Consent - Conversion of detached barn to annexe (LB)

11/01192/LBC 23 Mount Sion Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Listed Building Consent - New roof finish to existing entrance canopy; Remove main structure roof deck, felt and lead roof to make general repairs as necessary (LB)

11/01083/LBC Downingbury Farm House Maidstone Road, Pembury
- Listed Building Consent - New flue for replacement boiler (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells.

We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS
Dated: 14 May 2011

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/11/0236/S - MAIDSTONE HOSPITAL, HERMITAGE LANE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 9QQ - Erection of three storey temporary office building of modular construction as shown on drawing numbers 03001913 (Site Location Plan) and design and access statement received 18th February 2011, drawing numbers 03003177 (Block Plan), 03004376 (Floor Plans), 03004376 rev A (Site Plan) and 03004376 rev A (Elevations), and email dated 15th April 2011. **Reason**: 6

MA/11/0401/N - LITTLE HAILS, THE STREET, BOXLEY, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 3DX - Erection of a single storey side extension and a detached orangery. **Reason**: 1, 2

MA/11/0531/S - 65, THE QUARRIES, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4NJ - Listed building consent for the removal of steel flue from roof and for roof to be repaired with peg tiles. **Reason**: 3

MA/11/0564/S - NEWSTEAD FARM, COUCHMAN GREEN LANE, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, TN12 0RT - Erection of a single storey side extension. **Reason**: 1

MA/11/0580/S - LAND AT HAYLE PLACE, POSTLEY ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT - Application to extend the time limit for implementing permission MA/02/0180 for the erection of dwellings with garages and access and the use of the land as a country park with the provision of access and car parking with layout, scale, appearance, access and landscaping reserved for subsequent approval. **Reason**: 1, 2, 6, 7

MA/11/0591/N - KENT COUNTY COUNCIL, SESSIONS HOUSE, COUNTY ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1XQ - An application for listed building consent for amendments to Block C first floor offices being the creation of new partition to form two offices with the creation of new opening within south side of Block C and blocking up of existing doorway and creation of new doorway within west side of Block C. **Reason**: 3

MA/11/0592/N - LAND AT WEST STREET AND, HOOK LANE, HARRIETSHAM, KENT - Erection of 80 dwellings (including 40% affordable homes), area of public open space, provision of childrens play area and associated landscaping, together with the provision of a new access from West Street. **Reason**: 6

MA/11/0599/S - CROWTHERS, HIGH STREET, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 0BL - An application for a new planning permission to replace an extant planning permission MA/07/2565 (conversion of redundant coach house to annexe/study with first floor extension over existing flat roof and insertion of external staircase. Erection of a ground floor sun-room/conservatory to south elevation of main dwelling and replacement of existing weather boarding with plain clay tile hanging) to allow a further three years in which to implement the development. **Reason**: 1, 2

MA/11/0605/N - 38, ROYAL STAR ARCADE, HIGH STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1JL - An application for listed building consent for the installation of air-conditioning units in a purpose made demountable enclosure within existing cellar and ducting, inlet and outlet grills to front elevation. **Reason**: 3

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.
7 - Application affects a Public Right of Way.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **29th May 2011**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated**: 15th May 2011

Biddenden Vineyard is pick of the crop

SEE PAGE 53

ANIMAL MAGIC

Expert's input brings Kipling classic The Jungle Book to life

SEE PAGE 59

Kent Weekend

Saucy!

Mysteries of burlesque: all is revealed in Chatham

TURN TO PAGE 63

PLUS: How do we tackle congestion at the Dartford Crossing?- **talking point p50** Hot new acoustic act The Toy Hearts add European flavour to Americana - **exhibitions and events p61** New Mitsubishi ASX looks set to be a big winner in the crossover sector - **driving p77**

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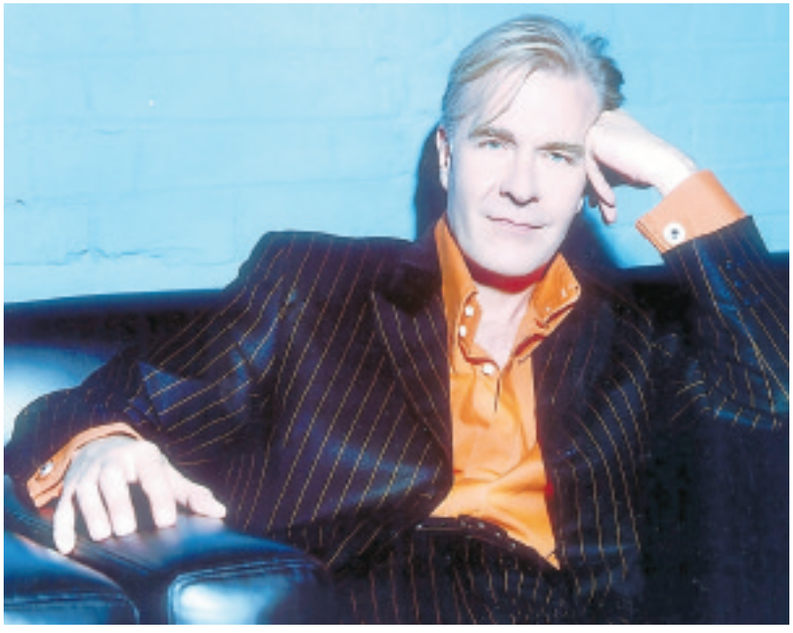
THE INTERVIEW

Singer keeps the romance alive

Lively ABC frontman Martin Fry talks to **Nick Ames** about his upcoming charity gig



MARTIN Fry shot to fame in the 1980s as he fronted ABC – a band who achieved huge commercial success and the critical acclaim that eluded many of their contemporaries.

The Lexicon Of Love was a big hit album in the times when bands such as Spandau Ballet and Duran Duran ruled the airwaves.

But unlike most of the 'New Romantics', with their coiffeured hair, synthesizers and videos shot on yachts, they had praise heaped upon them by the usually-cynical music press.

The group's first single, Tears Are Not Enough, made the UK Top 20 in 1981.

The following year, the band released their debut album The Lexicon Of Love, which reached No 1 in the UK album chart.

Produced by Trevor Horn, who later fronted The Buggles and Yes, it often featured in UK critics' lists of favourite albums.

It ranked 42nd in The Observer Music Monthly's Top 100 British Albums in June 2004 and 40th in Q magazine's 100 Greatest British Albums in June 2000.

The band had three Top 10 hits during 1982: the singles Poison Arrow, The Look Of Love (Part One) and All Of My Heart. They also shot ambitious videos.

Several of these songs are set to feature when ABC play the Music On The Hill festival in aid of Demelza Hospice and the Children's Development Trust at Kings Hill, West Malling, on Sunday, June 26.

"Festivals are very important now as part of the music scene," said Fry. "I play a lot of them now, it's what music is all about.

"It's very different to when I started out. Back in the 80s there were only three TV channels – now you can do anything on a laptop. That is something I really like.

"Someone recently asked me if there was anything I missed about the 80s, and I thought 'Margaret Thatcher? Knickerbocker glories?'. Then I thought there was one thing I did miss – Top Of The Pops.

"The BBC really should bring that show back. It was great – a showcase for everyone involved in the music business. You'd see Des O'Connor on it and then LL Cool J. It was a real showcase, and music is missing that.

"I used to love doing the show. You'd walk down the corridor and there would be David Bowie, or Mick Jagger, people I'd grown up listening to. There were other shows, but Top Of The Pops was just more intense. But I don't look back – I'm enjoying life as it is now."

Between 1982 and 1992, ABC recorded five other studio albums – Beauty Stab, How to Be a...Zillionaire!, Alphabet City, Up and Abracadabra – and released a greatest-hits compilation, Absolutely.

During this time, the band went through numerous line-up changes, with Fry and Mark White being the only permanent members.

Following the Zillionaire album, ABC disappeared temporarily from the limelight while Fry was treated for Hodgkin's disease.

ABC split up in 1992, but Fry resurrected the name in 1997 for the album Skyscraping, a homage to several of his musical heroes, including Bowie, Roxy Music and The Sex Pistols.

The album was a collaboration with Glenn Gregory of Heaven 17, and the band have toured extensively and performed live at events such as the 2001 Night of the Proms, where Fry was supported by a 72-piece orchestra and 50-piece choir.

In 2008, he released a new ABC album called Traffic and in April 2009 joined original drummer David Palmer at the Royal Albert Hall to perform the album Lexicon Of Love, accompanied by the BBC Concert Orchestra.

Anne Dudley of the Art Of Noise, who arranged and played keyboards on the original record, conducted the performance.

"I'm very interested in the music coming out now," said Fry. "I was on a panel for the Ivor [Novello] Awards recently and had a whole load to go through. I really like Elbow, and there's a band called Everything Everything, who I think are great.

"Recently I bought new albums by The Human League and Duran Duran, and it seemed a bit surreal to be listening to them. Then I've been listening to Robert Plant. He's been around a long time but produces great music."

Fry is looking forward to his Kent appearance. "It's about the weather in some ways, though," he said. "It's hard to get applause when it's raining. People have a brolly in one hand and a cheese sandwich in the other, so it's difficult to clap.

"We make sure we put on a great show, though, whatever the weather. It's also great to be doing a charity show and for such a great cause. Maybe it will be a new trend, because a large-scale charity event is a great idea."

■ **Music On The Hill ticket information**

Katherine Jenkins: Friday, June 24, £35 (now on sale).

McFly: Saturday, June 25, £33.50 (now on sale).

Family Summer Sunday with Björn Again and ABC: Sunday, June 26. Tickets are priced at £29.50 for adults, and £16 for children aged six to 16. A family ticket is £80. Children aged five and under go free to all concerts.

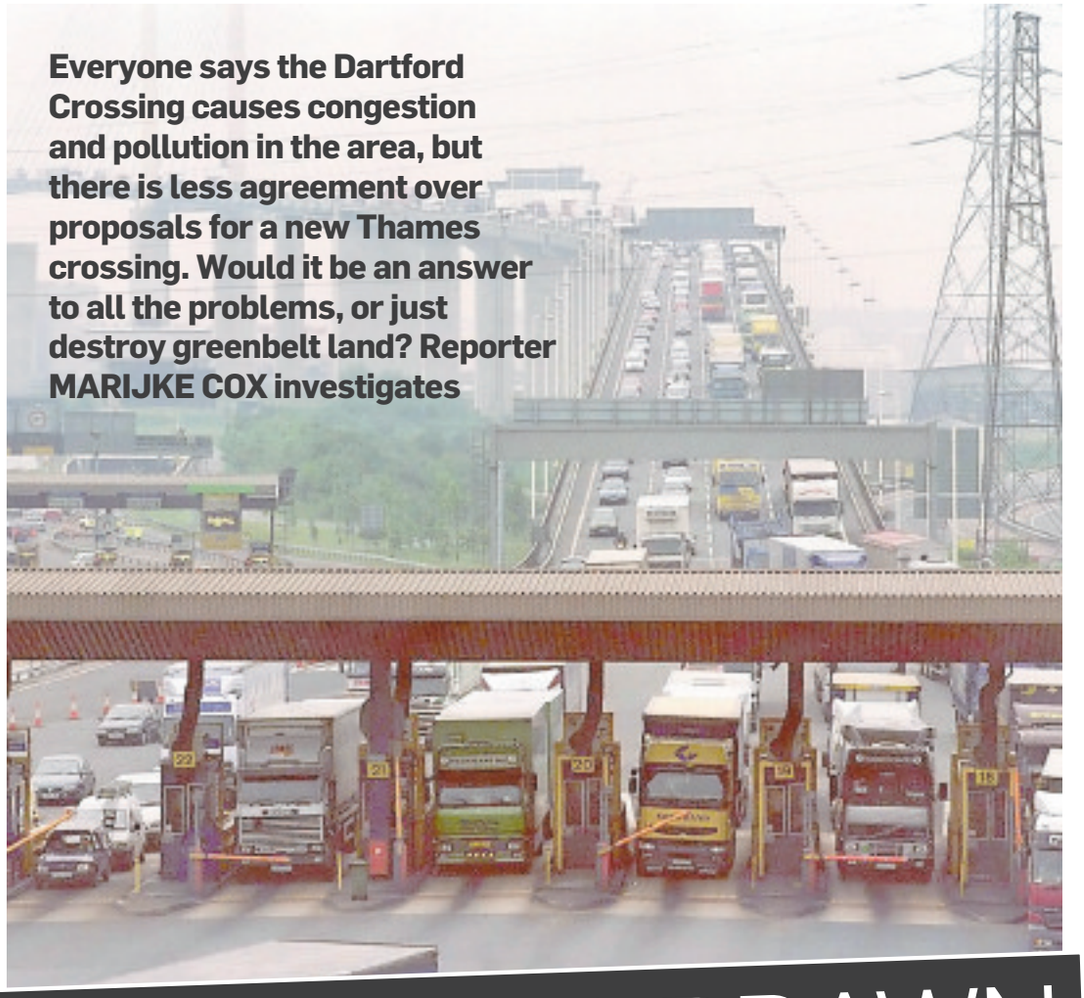
To book, visit www.musiconthehill.org.uk, or phone the 24-hour hotline on 0844 873 7339.

Gates open at 6pm on Friday and Saturday for a 7.30pm start. On Sunday, gates open at noon, with music from 1pm-8pm.

TALKING **POINT**

Lower Thames Crossing

Everyone says the Dartford Crossing causes congestion and pollution in the area, but there is less agreement over proposals for a new Thames crossing. Would it be an answer to all the problems, or just destroy greenbelt land? Reporter MARIJKE COX investigates



DRIVING FORCE: Lorries queue at the Dartford crossing, but protestors disagree with Cllr Paul Carter (below), who says a Lower Thames Crossing would help solve issues of congestion and pollution

BATTLELINES DRAWN ON THAMES TUNNEL

IT HAS been the focus of countless campaigns and the bane of motorists' and residents' lives for decades.

Even political parties have set their political differences aside to fight together for an end to the ongoing problems experienced by the county.

But troubles with the Dartford Crossing have continued, blighting the lives of communities living nearby, the 150,000 drivers using the congested road system each day, and the businesses who lose money when problems at the tunnel and bridge are at their worst.

And to make matters worse, motorists using the congested crossing have had to pay for the privilege – despite a Government promise tolls would be scrapped once the construction costs for the Queen Elizabeth II Bridge were paid off.

In 2004, the crossing began to make a profit, but the-then Labour Government kept the tolls in place. At the end of 2008 the £1 tolls were increased by 50 per cent to £1.50 and in an unpopular move by the Coalition Government in October, it was announced the costs would rise yet again, to £2 in 2011 and then £2.50 in 2012.

The Department for Transport said the increased charges would pay for new technology resulting in the removal of the toll booths and a reduction in the level of congestion and pollution.

Although campaigners welcomed the move to scrap the booths in 2012-13 and introduce a London-style congestion charge system, the ongoing fight to see the tolls removed continues.

MP for Dartford Gareth Johnson said he believed the charges should be scrapped, but admitted the removal of the booths was a huge step forward in tackling congestion.

"The great shame of all this is the Dartford Crossing should be a positive thing with transport links and business opportunities, but instead it stifles enterprise and strangles the area," he said. "The Treasury is reluctant to give up the £42 million generated from the Dartford Crossing (annually) but this is something I will never give up campaigning for. The tolls should be scrapped."

In 2009 the Labour Government announced plans to sell off the crossing to a private company to raise funds to help the UK economy, but campaigners were victorious in their opposition to the proposal with the Department for Transport later saying the asset would remain in public hands.

But since then, a further campaign has been launched to stop plans by Kent County Council to build a Lower Thames Crossing located at Gravesham.

Leader of County Hall Paul Carter said the tunnel plan was a "no brainer".

He said it would ease constant congestion at Dartford where there are at least 15 major incidents a year and five annual bridge closures, costing the UK economy £40 million annually.

KCC commissioned an independent feasibility report with Essex County Council, looking at the possibility of a third Thames crossing.

Cllr Carter said the report found a new crossing east of Gravesend would create around 6,000 jobs in north Kent and south Essex and contribute £334m to the local economy each year.

But Mr Johnson said before any such plans went ahead, it had to be seen whether scrapping the toll booths worked.

"I don't think we're going to have all the information needed to make a decision on a third crossing– we need to see what impact removing the booths will have before any plans for a new crossing go ahead," he said.

The former Tory leader of Gravesham Borough Council Mike Snelling and Labour leader of Thurrock Council in Essex John Kent teamed up earlier this year to fight plans for a crossing.

> **The Treasury is reluctant to give up the £42 million generated (a year) from the Dartford Crossing, but this is something I will never give up campaigning for. The tolls should be scrapped.**
>
> GARETH JOHNSON, MP FOR DARTFORD

A vote was held at Gravesham council last month to oppose any plans, it won unanimous backing and cross-party support.

After Labour gained control of the authority in the local elections last week, new leader Cllr John Burden said he would continue the campaign against KCC's plans.

"The general concerns are the loss of greenbelt land and the effect on local residents," he said.

"This isn't about politics; we need to work together as a community to oppose it."

Asked whether he felt confident now Gravesham Cllr Bryan Sweetland – who also opposes the scheme – had been appointed as KCC cabinet member for highways, he said: "Having a borough member at KCC is important and we will work with him."

In February Cllr Sweetland said that before accepting the position on the cabinet he spoke with Cllr Carter – who calls the third Thames crossing KCC's "preferred option" – to discuss his opposition to the plan.

He said: "I'm a councillor for Gravesham and the priority is representing the residents. It's not in their best interests to have a third Thames crossing close to their homes.What KCC has expressed is a preferred option. It's not something I particularly agree with, but it's only one option."

Another campaigner is Lib Dem James Willis, who was behind the Toot if You Give a Hoot campaign, where drivers were urged to beep their horns in protest against problems at Dartford.

"Government has always used the crossing as a cash cow – the charges should have been removed, that's what people were promised," he said.

"We've put forward proposals for rail hubs north, west, south and east of the M25 which takes lorries off the M25 and onto trains – the high-speed line could be used overnight. One in three vehicles are lorries and this would ease congestion at Dartford and stop pollution.

"Something needs to be done in Dartford; motorists, residents and businesses are suffering – it depresses the town."

HAVE YOUR SAY...

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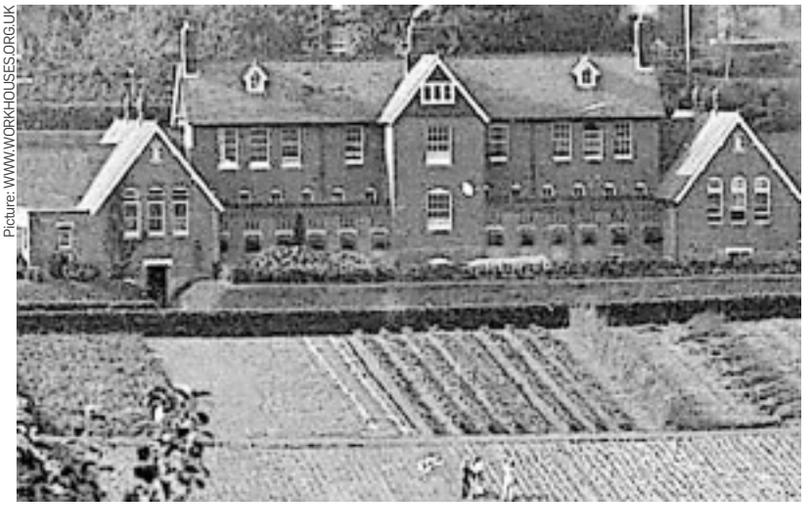
KENT **REMEMBERED**



Picture: WWW.WORKHOUSES.ORG.UK

DARK PAST: Before becoming a place to heal, Pembury County Hospital was home to a workhouse

Workhouse past reveals different side to hospital

By Jenna Pudelek
jenna.pudelek@archant.co.uk

"THE dead were in rows on shelves reaching to the roof like a ghastly bookcase," is how the pioneering suffragette Amelia Scott described the mortuary at Tonbridge workhouse.

During the Victorian era, in a time when people with epilepsy and unmarried mothers were considered insane and locked away like criminals, the living were not treated much better.

The last remaining remnants of the workhouse and infirmary, which opened in 1836 and closed in 1938 becoming Pembury County Hospital, are being demolished as the new state-of-the-art hospital on the site nears completion in September this year.

Soon the crumbling, prison-like buildings will be gone, but to remember them, John Weekes, head of emergency planning at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, is compiling a book detailing the history of both Pembury, and Kent and Sussex, hospitals.

With an archive dating from 1828 to the present day, containing thousands of photographs and documents, he is able to provide fascinating insights into changes in society and attitudes to healthcare.

"The workhouse was for the poor, including the sick and those regarded as insane," Mr Weekes said. "Anyone who did not fit in to society was regarded as insane, including epileptics and unmarried mothers.

"This was Victorian society – there is a document from the Kent and Sussex showing doctors refused to admit someone who tried to commit suicide."

REFORMER: Louisa Twining

Conditions were tough, inmates were given jobs such as breaking stones and 'picking oakum'. Old ropes were brought from the shipyard at Chatham and the women had to unravel them in hand-destroying work so the bits could be sold back to the Navy and used to fill the gaps between planks of wood to make the ships waterproof.

But there were two women who campaigned tirelessly to improve conditions for inmates – Miss Scott and Louisa Twining of the famous tea family.

"They were great reformers," Mr Weekes said. "Louisa Twining was a Victorian philanthropist, she set up a Workhouse Visiting Society. She was also a friend of Florence Nightingale and worked to get the workhouse nurses trained.

"She reformed the culture of the workhouse and infirmary.

"Amelia Scott was her friend and took over from her. She was a pioneering suffragette in Tunbridge Wells. She set about improving the lot of women and children.

"She got young girls apprenticed in domestic service and tried to get them out of the workhouse. She also set up a maternity home for the poor."

Miss Scott's diaries give some shocking insights into life at the workhouse. Her horror and humanity is clear when she describes a dead woman being carried from one of the female wards in 1901.

She wrote: "Four decrepit old workhouse men who in their stained oyster coloured corduroy suits were wheeling a truck similar to the ones on railway stations – a platform with screeching small iron wheels.

"The truck was used to bring linen from the sick wards but instead of dirty linen it bore a shell-like coffin, with a loose lid and within a daughter of the King of Kings. The coffin was jolted so severely that the lid fell off to the ground. Nothing could break the repose of her who slept her last sleep, but for me the comfortable creed 'all's right with the world' was profoundly shaken."

After witnessing the conditions, she put in an appeal and within a year a mortunary,

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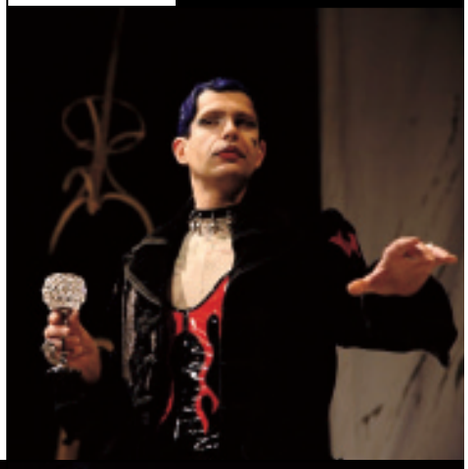

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Vineyard continues to enjoy the sweet taste of success

From humble beginnings, Biddenden Vineyard is now making some of England's finest wines, writes **Ed Hill**

BACK in 1969 when the Barnes family established Kent's oldest commercial vineyard, the English wine trade was highly sceptical of domestic growers.

Julian Barnes, managing director of Biddenden Vineyard, said: "We started with a third of an acre as a way of diversifying away from apple growing. We now have 22 acres of vines.

"We have always looked at it as not only selling the wine, but also getting people to come to the vineyard, see the vines, taste the wine and then take it home."

The last 40 years has been a process of experimentation with varieties and growing systems aimed at getting the best out of the English climate. The growers found that German varieties such as Ortega, Huxelrebe and Bacchus transferred well to the site.

Although Biddenden sells the majority of its stock from its own shop, it is now supplying local restaurants, pubs and shops with its wine and cider.

The trade was established through its cider production and distribution, which still makes up the majority of drink made at the vineyard.

Mr Barnes said: "We supply restaurants and pubs directly. It works as a nice retailing loop for us because if people see the wine or the cider in a restaurant they hopefully will also be interested in coming to see us here at the vineyard.

"In the same way, the people who visit Kent and the vineyard may want to order the wine again when they see it in another location."

VISITOR CENTRE: Biddenden Vineyard has come a long way since the Barnes family decided to enter the world of winemaking in 1969; it now boasts 22 acres of vines

The vineyard produces white, red, rosé and sparkling wines. The grapes are harvested in late September and bottling of the wines commences early in the following year.

English wines now have to conform to industry standards similar to those in France.

Biddenden wines have been award-winners over the years, and the 2008 Ortega vintage was named the best white wine at the English and Welsh Wine Awards in 2009.

The still ciders and juices produced at Biddenden come from apples grown at other nearby farms, giving it a distinctive taste and appearance.

Mr Barnes said: "We have always produced cider here that is more like wine in taste and appearance because we use good-quality apples like Cox and Bramley that are grown locally, as opposed to cider fruit. You start off with an apple that is edible and that allows us to adopt a winemaking approach to producing our cider."

Visitors to the shop can also buy juices made from apples and pears.

So what about the future?

Although Kent's climate is getting warmer, Mr Barnes does not think this is necessarily beneficial for the trade. "I think if we did get another degree warmer, it would be interesting, but we do not see that as a problem at the moment," he said.

"We get enough sunshine to get our wines up to 12-13 per cent alcohol naturally, which is what we want.

"One of the unique selling points about English wine is that our wines are slightly lower in alcohol than other wines around the world. In South Africa and Australia, which are also being affected by climate change, their wines are getting up to 14-14.5 per cent alcohol.

"As far as we are concerned, with all the health problems associated with high alcohol, we are not worried about producing wines that are slightly lower. With lower-alcohol wines, you get a lighter, fruitier sort of wine that is good for drinking at lunchtime or with salads.

"Sometimes we get a really hot year, which will push our wine up to 13 per cent. With that, you get a softer mouthful and richer wine that may keep for a period of time, such as three to five years.

"The great thing about winemaking is that it is a very interesting industry. There is always something different every year and that is why I would encourage people to come and visit."

Farmers' markets

Dartford

THE market is held in the pedestrian area of Dartford high street and is open to the public between 10am and 2pm on the third Friday of the month. There is a variety of produce available, including meat, bread, plants, preserves and fudge.

Egerton

EGERTON farmers' market has now been trading every Friday from 2pm to 4.30pm for almost five years, with most of the original stall-holders still selling at the popular market in the Millennium Hall. A variety of fresh local produce is always on offer.

Hempstead Valley

HEMPSTEAD Valley farmers' market started in September 2006 and is held on the second Sunday of the month between 10am and 2pm throughout the year in the shopping centre; it offers a wide range of fresh produce, including local fruit and vegetables.

Meopham

MEOPHAM farmers' market has been operating since July 2004 in the overflow car park of the Meopham fitness and tennis centre, the site of the school, library and doctors' surgery in Meopham on the first Sunday of the month from 9am to 12.30pm.

Sissinghurst

THE market, which sells a wide range of goods, is in the ancient Elizabethan barn, next to the Granary restaurant in the famous Sissinghurst National Trust site on the second Monday every month, when the gardens are open between midday and 3pm.

Iwade

IWADE village hall first opened a very popular farmers' market in February 2009 and it takes place on the first Sunday of every month from 10am until 1pm, offering fresh seasonal local produce, including a rich variety of fruit.

■ **For more farmers' markets, visit www.farmersmarkets.org.uk**

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Women Seeking

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(T&C's below)

DOWN to earth blonde with brown eyes with lots of love to give looking for loving, caring relationship. Can travel/accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365991**

JUST an ordinary girl, looking for an ordinary guy. Beautiful, dizzy, petite, but lonely brunette. Call me. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365989**

MATURE N/S lady, WLTM N/S, clean shaven gent for companionship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348423**

VERY feminine blue eyed blonde seeks strong, well built male to share intimate good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377076**

FEMININE beauty looking for fun times with likeminded outgoing male, if like the sound of me pls call. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358279**

TALL sexy green eyed female, great body, seeks tall male for no strings adult good times. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377078**

EASTBOURNE lonely lady 54, seeks loving, caring male for fun, frolics, holidays and to share what life has to offer, leading to LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385488**

56YR old female, 5ft 7ins, overweight, attractive, seeks honest male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385374**

FRAN tall leggy, attractive female, 51, young looking, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, many interests, seeks tall, slim male, 48-54 for friendship, maybe more. Crawley. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365845**

MISS Gorgeous, 5ft 8ins, black beauty, sexy, curvy, likes a laugh, happy go lucky, seeks male for no strings fun times. Hackney. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365861**

YOUNG 57yr old female, blonde, 5ft 1ins, likes horses, pubs, reading, nights in, dvds, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385584**

KAREN 32, 5ft 7ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, caring, fun loving, generous, likes cuddles, seeks male for fun and friendship. Fareham. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366575**

SLIM fun loving red head, 33yrs been hurt in the past and wanting to have fun again looking for mature Mr Right 40-60yrs. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366029**

DEBBIE sensual with lovely womenly curves, 35yrs, looking for nice guy to share fun, friendship and maybe more. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366027**

27YR old independent brunette, OHAC, fed up with spending time alone, looking for attractive likeminded male for adult fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366023**

PRETTY brunette 34, looking for uncomplicated fun and friendship with mature male who can make her feel special, 40-60. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365995**

36YR old bored housewife looking for mutual companionship with discreet understanding man stuck in a similar rut. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364331**

SUSIE 5ft 7ins, blonde, seeks educated attractive male for loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385476**

FEMALE 70's, N/S, easygoing, likes days out and charity work, seeks gent, 65-75 with GSOH for companionship. **Tel No; 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364949**

BUBBLY cuddly dark haired lady, blue eyes looking for fun and romance with a spontaneous male with plenty of spare time. Any age/Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364911**

SERIOUSLY sensual petite female, 39, long brown hair seeks similar fit and active male for uncomplicated fun friendship with some romancing. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364909**

SENSUAL blonde beauty, been single far too long, looking for genuine fun times with tall, dark outgoing male who's up for adult fun. Can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364907**

CLAIRE 35, attractive confident with lots to offer, WLTM genuine guy to spice up her free time. Age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364879**

ATTRACTIVE lady 62 new to area seeks male for theatre, cinema, meals out, short walks and strolls. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365171**

BEAUTIFUL slim Asian female, 20, seeks older, solvent gent 75 plus for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363985**

BIG bubbly Italian women looking to meet male 45-55 for fun, going out and being happy together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385418**

KAY blue eyes, 5ft 8ins, cuddly, romantic, likes music, craft, walks, animals, seeks male, 30-45 for friendship, maybe more. Fareham. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365267**

34YR old blonde new to the area, seeking younger guy for fun times maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365079**

FUN loving curvy red head 32yrs, loves good food/wine, WLTM male who appreciates a real woman and knows what he likes. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365077**

30YR old brunette fit, feminine, attractive, free, single and looking for love with similar fun loving guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365075**

CUTE 33yr old attractive female looking for younger male for fun times with lots of chemisty! Can travel/accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365055**

43YR old slim single mum, GSOH, fun and fit, looking for similar minded male for companionship and more, 35-60. Any race/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365053**

LUCY 18, pretty with long dark hair, great figure, many likes, few dislikes, discreet, seeks male for casual adult fun meets only 30-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365051**

KATE young looking, young outlook, seeking younger male to share intimate and fun times with no ties. 20-40. ACA. **Tel No; 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363941**

37YR old nurse confident, attractive, single by choice, looking for older N/S male to romance and enjoy quality times together. 45-70. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363939**

38YR old slim professional, attractive, sporty, looking for solvent mature male for lots of fun and mutual pampering, 40-70. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363937**

HARDWORKING fruitcake who wears her heart on her sleeve, curvy, attractive, looking for male for cosy nights in with plenty of TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363909**

ATTRACTIVE caring blue eyed blonde, 40, enjoys intimate nights in, looking for some good company, looks/age unimportant. Can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363267**

32YR old female, new to the dating scene, looking for fun casual relationship/friendship initially, maybe more, with understanding male, 32-42. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364303**

BEAUTIFUL slim, sexy female, 22, seeks older, distinguished gent, 65 plus for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364037**

LONELY slim blue eyed blonde, OHAC, N/S, varied interests, just looking for mature fun companion for plenty of tlc/romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364335**

53YR old female, blue eyes, blonde hair, slim, looking for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384874**

DIVORCED lady 51 blonde, blue eyes slim, likes walks in countryside, cinema, music, pubs, animals, nights in/out, travel, seeks tall, slim caring male, 48-54 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365147**

BEAUTIFUL brunette, slim with curves in all the right places seeking male to share special intimate fun times together. Can travel/accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364875**

KATE young looking, fun loving lady looking for someone to share love, life and have even better happy times with. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364873**

SUSAN 50 something, seeks male of similar age for fun times and a good life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364853**

36YR old bored housewife looking for mutual companionship with discreet understanding man stuck in a similar rut. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364331**

48YR old curvy, attractive female, likes cooking, seeks stocky, romantic, considerate, attractive male, 40-45 for LTR. **Tel No; 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385090**

KISSING Kate and saucy Sarah, bubbly blonde, seeks generous older gent to make us feel like Princesses. **Tel No; 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385086**

REAL woman, ex jailbird, drug addict, battered wife attractive 45, likes art, antiques, seeks loyal long term partner. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385076**

41YR old busty blonde, seeking discreet male for uncomplicated mutual friendship with benefits! Any age. Call me you have nothing to lose. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363301**

VERY single, flirty fully figured, confident, sophisticated attractive student, 19, seeking fun times in or out with outgoing confident male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363299**

DONNA 35, single mum of 3, seeks male with GSOH, 35-40. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385064**

BEAUTIFUL slim Malaysian female, 24, seeks retired solvent gent to spoil and pamper for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363135**

NICE lady, slim, feminine, honest, cheerful, 57, seeks peace loving, calm gent for shared interests, romance and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363461**

VOLUPTUOUS attractive tanned, well groomed blonde 39, looking for good times, pampering, massages and discreet friendship. ACA. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361751**

GORGEOUS looking lonely lass 28, OHAC, no ties, looking for some romantic liaisons with older male. ACA/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361731**

ATTRACTIVE romantic, sensitive, no nonsense woman, 40's, seeks attractive, romantic, stylish, sensitive, honest, generous man who puts the woman in his life first and shows it by his actions. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334303**

LORRAINE seeks trustworthy white male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363793**

SEXY looking mature lady who likes to look after herself, solvent, home owner, WLTM appreciative younger man, looks unimportant good personality essential. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364333**

36YR old bored housewife looking for mutual companionship with discreet understanding man stuck in a similar rut. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364331**

CURVY feminine long haired attractive female, size 12, no ties, discreet, WLTM reliable male, 35-55 for 1-2-1 meetings. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364301**

TALL leggy tanned pretty female looking for gentleman friend for cosy nights in and intimate nights out. Any age/looks. Can accommodate. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364299**

MARY 60, good for age, GSOH, likes cooking, meals out, looking for some fun company, possible romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364357**

ATTRACTIVE warm, blonde female, European, 49, seeks honest, generous male, 50 plus who will take care of me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364277**

SLIM easygoing blonde, works too hard, needs sincere male to help liven up her free time. Looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357894**

FEMALE seeks kind, caring white male, 42-50, tidy and clean for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363197**

ATTRACTIVE petite, young 60yr old lady likes music, dancing, fun to be with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363355**

VOLUPTUOUS attractive female, divorced, no ties, looking for a confident hunk for adult fun times. No wimps need apply. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363907**

29YR old lonely, attractive single mum looking for tlc and nice times with similar lonely male, any age, looks or status. ACA. . **Tel No; 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363905**

ATTRACTIVE petite, energetic, loves fun, seeks male. **Tel No; 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363363**

DAWN 37, attractive, blonde, slim, likes walks, countryside, own home/business, seeks tall, attractive male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385000**

ATTRACTIVE honey blonde lady, 45, slim, educated, seeks genuine, single, solvent, dark haired, professional guy to share finer things in life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361209**

INDEPENDENT nurse, late forties, looks much younger, if you are looking for some fun and enjoyment call me now and I will tell you what I'm looking for. ACA. **Tel No; 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355755**

EASYGOING honest female 30, slim, blue eyed and new to this, seeks spontaneous male with plenty of spare time. Any age/status/race. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358285**

PROFESSIONAL brunette, green eyes, petite, solvent, OHAC, looking for good adult companionship with likeminded male. Any/status. **Tel No; 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362951**

ATTRACTIVE slim well educated spontaneous blonde, 36, fed up with being alone WLTM keen tactile man who is up for a challenge, **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362887**

HI I'm Katie, new to the single scene with no ties, 35, curvy feminine, beautiful, well educated and an all round good catch, so don't hang about. ACA. **Tel No; 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356131**

HOME alone on a Saturday night again! Blonde, slim and all a man could ever want, seeking man who appreciates a good woman. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360821**

CURVY sophisticated Irish lady 36, new to the area and lonely, WLTM male up to 69yrs for companionship, cosy nights in/out. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361379**

KAREN tall slim feminine, 40, WLTM genuine male who will keep me warm and cosy up for romantic nights in/out. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361357**

WIDOW lady 65, looking for nice, understanding guy with GSOH for friendship and cuddles. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384412**

NEW to the area and seeking male companionship. Attractive singleton 32, fit, caring, anxiously awaits your call. Can travel/accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358133**

VERY young 40's female looking for younger man to care for, share special intimate fun times together. Can travel/accommodate. **Tel No; 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358129**

SLIM attractive, elegant Asian female, likes travel, restaurants, cinema, seeks caring, Asian male, 45-55 for friendship, possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361571**

ATTRACTIVE female, blonde, mid 30's, seeks likeminded male for rambling, horse riding and other similar interests. Eastbourne **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380372**

LIKE uniforms? Stunning blonde nurse is waiting to be scooped up by that lucky fella! You don't know what you're missing. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373126**

WARM loving young girl seeks mature male who is free in the evenings for fun. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376398**

NEW to area, happy female with no ties and easy to please, looking for genuine manly man for friendship, dates and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362885**

BEAUTIFUL slim brunette, will try anything once, varied interests, seeks laid back male for friendship, good conversations and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353679**

HI I'm Sue, attractive, with very nice eyes! Curvy size 14, desperately seeking fun with fun male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357135**

DIVORCED pretty female looking for love with fun independent male with GOSH, single dad welcome. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360845**

FEMALE 46, slim, likes cooking, seeks tall, caring male. Crawley **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379498**

JOYCE attractive 40's feminine lady loves good times in/out looking for likeminded younger male for fun times. Can accommodate/travel. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362859**

JUDY post op TS, 55, seeks male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361041**

SALLY petite, confident lady, happy go lucky, likes dancing, walks, tv, seeks male/soul mate for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362665**

28YR old slim blonde female, varied interests, looking for uncomplicated friendship with open minded man. Status/looks/Age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362865**

BLONDE blue eyed single female, 34, discreet, OHAC, looking for fun friendship with confident man, 38-60 wanting fun times also. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362863**

JOHN 59, fun loving, GSOH, seeks female with no ties for nice meals out, days out, friendship, romance, maybe more. Surrey. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366213**

KIND widower, 64, OHAC, horse, dog, cat, usual interests, seeks slim lady for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371682**

SPORTY experienced young man, looking for attractive female. Portsmouth. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365541**

LOVABLE fella, young 50's, romantic, tactile, artistic, GSOH, likes music, country, coast, cooking, gardening, classic cars, seeks curvy, attractive lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366127**

MALE seeks female, 35-60 for mutual daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385702**

Men Seeking

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people.

Send : CHAT601 To : 65125 or call 0906 781 4392

(T&C's below)

LOVING mature male, GSOH, 5ft 10ins, medium build, no ties, OHAC, likes travel, home cooking, seeks special, honest, trustworthy, N/S lady to spoil, size 10-12. Crawley **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380394**

PROFESSIONAL male, 42, 5ft 10ins, dark hair, hazel eyes, keep fit, seeks calming relaxing female company for socialising, maybe more. Central London/Bucks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366495**

SPRING has sprung and love is in the air, seeking N/S slim, pretty lady for LTR. East Sussex. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385696**

ATTRACTIVE confident business man, seeks tall, athletic, assertive lady for possible friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366471**

BLACK male, 46, 5ft 11ins, own home/teeth, likes working out, seeks female, any race for LTR. Haringey. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366617**

NICE guy, honest, friendly, professional, likes films, books, art, seeks similar female for LTR. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385712**

RETIRED English gent, worked in the Orient, seeks Oriental female for companionship, restaurants, holidays etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366533**

HONEST reliable, handsome, black male, 47, affectionate, seeks mature, trendy, white female, 42-62 for going out, laughter and life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350653**

ASIAN male, 36, 5ft 9ins, slim, seeks similar female for fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366283**

49YR old gent, seeking a lady companion, any nationality for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366059**

TALL mature, attractive male, seeks slim, petite, Asian/Oriental/Latino lady for fun LTR. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352511**

TALL attractive mature male, seeks slim, petite, sexy lady for intimate times. Central London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365863**

BLACK male, 48, medium build, likes sport, films, music, bars, N/S, seeks attractive, fun female, 30-48 for friendship, maybe more. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366421**

LEO passionate, uninhibited, medium build, caring, mature, semi retired, N/S, easygoing, OHAC, GSOH, seeks similar petite lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350171**

LEO 5ft 10ins, medium build, GSOH, OHAC, N/S, easygoing, no ties, seeks female for friendship and romance. Crawley **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379660**

TALL good looking male, 49, new to area, divorced, seeks fun female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381584**

MALE 53, likes meals out, cinema, seeks genuine, single, black lady 30 plus for serious 1-2-1 relationship, maybe marriage. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365947**

GLEN 5ft 7ins, average build, N/S, young 62, seeks lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366465**

JAMES 37, GSOH, genuine, likes travel, socialising, music, seeks fun loving female for friendship and more. **Tel No; 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363579**

BLACK British, reliable, kind, faithful 47yr old, seeks caring white female wanting lasting happiness, love and nights out. London. **Tel No; 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366365**

CASUAL caring relationship sought with an affectionate, home loving female by kind, presentable, tactile, 65yr old country man, OHAC, animals and usual interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 346044**

RICHARD 59, 5ft 11ins, medium build, hazel eyes, N/S, likes meals out, places of interest, OHAC, seeks female up to 63. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366071**

Gay Seeking

IF YOU'RE LOOKING to connect and chat with other men look no further TXT: **GAY601** to **65125** for 3 chat matches, fun and safe service.

BI male, 60, seeks male of similar age or younger. Lancing. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385388**

BLACK male, 6ft 4ins, seeks good tennis players for regular match play and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365981**

MALE clean shaven, N/S, seeking younger play mate for fun and games. Chichester. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365507**

GAY TV, seeks similar TV/CD to share interests for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363927**

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Bebeached Margate

Why here...
Sit outside this little café, situated on the harbour arm in Margate, and you will enjoy unbeatable views of Margate Old Town and over the bay. It is a perfect vantage point for Turner Contemporary.

On the menu...
Jean, the chef patron, devises a constantly-changing menu of delicious dishes using fresh, local and organic ingredients. The brunch menu offers enough delights to make you want to stay for lunch as well.

How to book...
Margate Harbour Arm, Margate CT9 1AP
phone: 07961 402612
web: www.bebeached.co.uk

Springtime is here and the eating is easy

IT'S fair to say that as soon as spring is in the air, the sun comes out and the temperature creeps into double figures, we Brits will look for any opportunity for alfresco eating.

Over the centuries, we've perfected the art of picnicking, whether it be out in the countryside, down by the sea, or up in the mountains.

We went one stage further by bringing alfresco eating to the home – in the garden. The faintest hint of clement weather and out comes the barbecue... musty garden furniture is uncovered, barbecue equipment is cleaned up and prepared, and the patio is pressure-washed.

OK, so it is not quite dining on a teracotta terrace in the hills above Rome, but it is nevertheless still eating outside in the fresh air.

Unfortunately, we have to conitnue the all-important hourly weather checks to make sure that the rolls and salad don't get washed away.

But after many years of complaining as to why our towns do not offer this open-air eating bonanza, Britain has arrived.

We've finally adopted the sophisticated Continental-style outdoors eating in a restaurant – ideally with a fabulous view, though urban pavements are just as welcome.

The resonance of the Mediterranean lifestyle of eating and drinking alfresco raises our spirits, and in Kent, there are many opportunities to really go Continental.

Head to almost any spot on the county's long coast, and you'll find somewhere to sit and enjoy a wonderful bite to eat. But here are six of the best...

GALLERY VIEW: Be part of the new Margate scene at Bebeached

Kits Coty Brasserie Bluebell Hill

Why here...
Situated atop Bluebell Hill, a table on the Mediterranean-style terrace on a sunny day – or indeed in the glass-fronted dining room – will offer spectacular views over the Weald of Kent. The function room has an adjoining marquee and covered terrace.

On the menu...
Traditional British dishes get a modern slant, incorporating influences from Europe and Asia, using local produce wherever possible. Set three-course menu: lunch £16.50 and dinner £19.50.

How to book...
Old Chatham Road, Bluebell Hill, Aylesford ME20 7EZ
phone: 01634 68444515
web: www.kitscoty.co.uk

The Swan West Malling

Why here...
This converted 15th-century coaching inn presents a lively modern brasserie and two sleek bars. It also offers alfresco dining in a shaded terrace. This summer sees the launch of the Secret Garden, a Mediterranean-inspired outdoor lounge with Philippe Stark furniture, woven rugs, mature olive trees, hanging lanterns, blankets and chimneas. The kitchen opens on to the terrace and outdoor cooking areas for your viewing.

On the menu...
Favourite British classics are created using seasonal ingredients, wherever possible from local farms and growers. The Swan garden menu offers one main course, a glass of wine and a coffee for £14.

How to book...
35 Swan Street, West Malling, ME19 6JU
phone: 01732 521910
web: www.theswanwest malling.co.uk

Mulberry Tree Boughton Monchelsea

Why here...
Travel down narrow sandy lanes and into the heart of the Weald to find this country restaurant, which enjoys two AA rosettes. A sunny terrace and garden offers alfresco dining with a view.

On the menu...
An award-winning member of Produced In Kent, the restaurant champions local products and sources from local suppliers within the Weald of Kent for its modern British and European cuisine.

How to book...
Hermitage Lane, Boughton Monchelsea ME17 4DA
phone: 01622 749082/ 741058
web: www.themulberrytree kent.co.uk

Richard Phillips Chapel Down

Why here...
Set in the Chapel Down vineyard in the heart of the Kentish countryside, the views from the restaurant's alfresco terrace perfectly complement the food and wine. Surrounded by acres of wine country and a classic English landscape, an alfresco experience here is a gourmand's delight.

On the menu...
The modern British menu makes the most of the local produce and has been devised by classically-trained Michelin-starred chef Richard Phillips. Each item comes with a suggested wine from the vineyard's own selection or from around the world. The three-course set lunch menu is £15.95 and the evening chef's table menu is £38.

How to book...
Tenterden Vineyard, Small Hythe, Tenterden TN30 7NG
phone: 01580 761616
web: www.richardphillipsat chapeldown.co.uk

Posillipo Broadstairs

Why here...
It's worth going to this popular Italian for the view alone, but you have to book to bag a spot on the all-weather terrace overlooking the sea. A great spot for people-watching... think Riviera.

On the menu...
Classic Italian fare offers pizza, pasta, veal and chicken dishes on the predominantly Neapolitan menu, and the fish and seafood, mostly local, can be excellent. The daily specials bring a touch of flair.

How to book...
Osteria Pizzeria Posillipo, 14 Albion Street, Broadstairs
Phone: 01843 601133
web: www.posillipo.co.uk

■ IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT **Six of the Best** CONTACT 01303 817150 OR EMAIL **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

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Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th May
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FREE ADMISSION

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01622 662610
www.theme-events.co.uk
Fisher-Price
For directions go to www.kentshowground.co.uk
KM

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FREE ADMISSION

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www.theme-events.co.uk
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by TV's Clive Attrell from ITV and BBC Television

MONDAY 23rd MAY	TUESDAY 24th MAY	WEDNESDAY 25th MAY
DEAL	**ASH**	**HERNE BAY**
Royal Marines Association 37 The Strand Walmer, Deal Kent CT14 7DX 10.00am - 4.00pm	The Chequer Inn 4 Chequer Lane Ash, Near Canterbury Kent CT3 2ET 10.00am - 4.00pm	The Royal British Legion 41 Central Parade Herne Bay Kent CT6 5HZ 10.00am - 4.00pm

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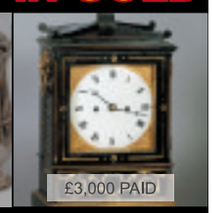

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CLOCKS	OBJECTS OF INTEREST

Clive Attrell has a well-established and successful antiques warehouse on the High Street in Hastings Old Town and you may also recognise him from Dickinson's Real Deal, on which he was a regular appraiser for over two years. Clive has also been involved with numerous other television productions.

WHAT THE PUBLIC SAY...

" I waited to see Clive and was given almost double the amount offered by London auction houses, I'm very pleased indeed."
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" searching through my loft and going along to Clive for a valutation has earned me just over £2000 today, its all going towards my holiday this year. "
Ivy from Folkestone

DON'T MISS OUT! If you cannot make the above dates Clive will also be appearing at the following locations between the **13th - 15th of JUNE**:

FOLKESTONE: TBC, **ASHFORD:** Conningbrook Hotel
NEW ROMNEY: The Ship Hotel

Keep this advert for future reference

CUT-OUT AND KEEP

For precise details of the above dates and venues please call Phil on **07836 719895** or check online at: **www.freeantiquesvaluations.com**

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WALKS Aylesford village

Valley of Visions

Visit www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent

Explore KENT

Take in the stunning picture-postcard views on this walk around the village of Aylesford on the River Medway

JUST a stone's throw from the bustling county town of Maidstone, you can discover the picturesque village of Aylesford nestled alongside the River Medway, reflecting the village buildings in its calm waters.

Starting out either at Aylesford train station or the village car park, the path takes you quickly down towards the river. The view from here should be familiar as its idyllic scene is used in many calendars, photographs and paintings of the area. Keep an eye out, as you may be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of a kingfisher.

As you continue, you will cross Aylesford's old bridge, the ideal river crossing to add to the visual aesthetics of the village. Now closed to motorised traffic, the bridge is late 14th century, its centralised arch widened in 1824 to allow larger boats to pass.

The Chequers pub has an excellent riverside terrace which affords great views and The Bushis is another popular watering hole.

After an exhilarating uphill stint you will get a good view of Aylesford sandpit. Sand has been dug here for at least 1,000 years. The route will take you towards and into the village of Eccles.

If you have some time, why not visit the 'Dream Towers', the sculpture installed in the village recreational ground as part of the Aylesford Community Trail project?

Also in the village The Red Bull pub offers traditional ales, fine food and its own farm shop.

As you continue walking, you will join the North Downs Way – after about 300 metres you should notice a gap in the hedge with what looks like a small stone building directly in front of you – this is Kits Coty House.

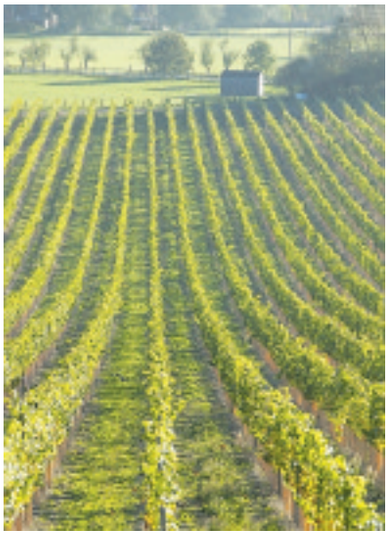
The collection of three stones is one of four megalithic monuments in the county. Known as the Medway Megaliths, this grouping is unique in south-east England.

They are truly atmospheric and easy to reach – bringing the mysterious atmosphere of a bygone era to the walk.

As you take the home strait back to Aylesford village, take some time to enjoy the glorious views and stunning woods that you pass by.

■ **For more information, visit www.valleyofvisions.org.uk**

BY THE RIVER: Along the banks of the River Medway, four miles north-west of the county town of Maidstone, sits the picture-postcard village of Aylesford



■ **Location:** Aylesford, ME20 7JL
■ **Distance:** 7.1 miles (11.5km), allow four hours
■ **OS Explorer Map:** 148
■ **Terrain:** Parts of the walk are quite challenging due to uphill walking, and paths can become muddy. One railway-line crossing
■ **Stiles:** One, and two sets of steps
■ **Gates:** Five
■ **Step count:** Approximately 14,200
■ **Parking:** Car park at Aylesford
■ **Refreshments and facilities:** Shops and pubs at Aylesford

Explore Kent

EXPLORE Kent is your one-stop shop for Kent's best walks, bike rides, horse rides and parks. With inspirational videos, a free iPhone map application, ideas for days out and much more, you can explore and enjoy Kent's countryside and coast.

Visit the website www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent
Or telephone: 08458 247600 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)

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10am to 5pm each day

For further details please send SAE to
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email: jennyhollingsbee@fsmail.net
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Programme subject to change

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Finchcocks Musical Museum

Goudhurst TN17 1HH
01580 211702
www.finchcocks.co.uk

Magnificent Georgian manor house in beautiful gardens, home to Richard Burnett's celebrated collection of over 100 historical musical instruments - 40 in full playing order. Entertaining and informal demonstration-recitals on Open Days/ group visits.

Finchcocks is a musical centre of international repute, that makes a wonderful day out for all the family.

Many events including: Midsummer Music Series, September Festival, Christmas Concert and craft fairs.

Refreshments in the cellar restaurant.

Open Sundays - April to end September including Bank Holiday Mondays. In addition, Weds and Thurs in August.

Groups by appointment: Mid March to Christmas on most days.

Dickens World

Open Monday to Sunday 10.00am – 4.30pm (last admission 3pm)

Dickens World, our exciting indoor visitor complex based around the life, books and times of Charles Dickens. We take you on a fascinating journey to Dickens' World as you step back into authentically themed Dickensian England.

Events at Dickens World

28th May - 3rd June
The Circus of Light
£17 Adult. £12 Child. £15 Concession 3.30pm.
(All prices include Dickens World entry)

Saturday 4th June
The Hoi Polloi Ball
£17 inc. a sausage and mash supper 7.30pm
Dance to the music of the Hot Rats with a caller with additional entertainment

Saturday 11th June
The Magic Flute - Live in the Dickens World Courtyard
£39 inc. 3 course silver service meal 7.00pm
£25 ticket only 8.00pm for 8.30pm

Jongleurs - Book now at www.dickensworld.co.uk
Friday 6th May - Sold out **3rd June** - Available

Future Events - Selected dates throughout the Summer
Sail the River Medway with Edith May & Dickens World

Leviathan Way,
Chatham Maritime,
Kent ME4 4LL
(for sat nav use Leviathan Way)

For all information and online bookings call
01634 890 421
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www.kitcar-shows.co.uk

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Show Open 10am-5pm
£11 Adults
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European promotions
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KENT ATTRACTIONS

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

Jungle Book
Theatre for children

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Tue, June 28, to Sat, July 2
assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk

THIS production is the latest show from The Birmingham Stage Company, renowned for its high-quality children's productions. The Jungle Book tells the story of Mowgli, a young boy raised in the jungle by a family of wolves.
When Shere Khan the tiger swears to kill the child, Baloo the bear and Bagheera the panther agree to take the boy to the man village for his safety. But the jungle holds danger and surprises for all in this adventure of a lifetime.
Animal expert Peter Elliot has created the animal movement in the show so that the bear, tiger and monkey characters are more realistic for the stage.
For the full interview, with Peter Elliot see Kent Weekend at the end of July.

Taste of history
Victorian soiree

Ightham Mote, Sevenoaks
Saturday, May 21, 7pm
01732 810 378
Tickets cost £29.50

DESCRIBED by historian David Starkey as one of the most beautiful and interesting of English country houses, Ightham Mote is offering the experience of a lifetime at the 700-year-old moated manor house. Come and join Sir Thomas and Lady Colyer-Fergusson in their Great Hall for an evening of Victorian entertainment that includes recitations, music and magic. Experience how our ancestors amused themselves before the invention of television!
The offer includes a drink on arrival and is followed by a two-course buffet supper in the Mote Restaurant. The home has been owned by both medieval knights and courtiers to Henry VIII and includes a crypt, Tudor painted ceiling and a Grade I-listed dog-kennel.

Showcase
Classic cars on parade

High Street, Faversham
Sat and Sun, May 21-22
07842 162192
www.faversham.org

FAVERSHAM'S traditional Classic Car Show is bigger and even better for 2011. Now taking place over a whole weekend, classic cars, motorcycles and military vehicles will be on display.
In addition, the Spitfire Steam Train will visit Faversham on the Sunday, with visitors able to take trips from Faversham station during the afternoon.
Throughout the weekend, veteran buses will shuttle between the town centre and Brogdale, where visitors can park their cars.
Among the many exhibits will be American, classic, sports and racing cars, along with vintage mopeds and motorbikes, many with interesting histories and fascinating stories to tell.
To mark the centenary of the Maidstone and District Bus Company, the bus display on Saturday will feature historic, refurbished and novelty buses to remind visitors of times gone by. There will also be an exhibition of bus-related gifts and memorabilia at the Drill Hall in Preston Street.
As part of the Historic Vehicle Weekend, Faversham Traders' Group has organised a rock'n'roll night on Friday, May 20. An evening of music from the 50s and 60s will feature a rock'n'roll band and DJs playing the best tunes from the era. A craft and design fair will be held at Creek Creative in Abbey Street.

Walking
Days of discovery

Gravesend
Until Tuesday, May 31
01474 337601
www.gogravesham.com

WALKERS are invited to take a historic stroll around Gravesend's glorious gardens as part of the 2011 Discover Gravesham Festival.
Local historian Sandra Soder will host guided walks through Fort Gardens, the Promenade area, Gordon Gardens in Milton and Harmer Street on Saturday, May 21.
As you're guided through the town's gardens, Sandra will point out key historical facts. The walk, which is new to the 2011 programme, will cost £4 per adult and £2.50 per child/senior citizen. Keep the children busy on Fridays, May 20 and 27, with the Fun Friday workshop at the Chantry Heritage Centre between 3.30 and 4.30pm.
Youngsters aged between five and 11 are invited to join the team from Gravesend Library for a fun-packed hour of crafts, and stories costing £2 per child; parental supervision is required.
Also this season, learn how the guns of Tilbury and Gravesend forts dominated the Thames in crossfire, barring the way to London from invading fleets.

Wildlife watch
RSPB sets up viewing area

Leeds Castle
01622 765400
www.leeds-castle.com or
www.rspb.org.uk

WITH summer approaching, the RSPB will be based at Leeds Castle to help visitors enjoy watching wildlife.
The charity is setting up a viewing area overlooking the castle's main lake.
Staff and volunteers will be on hand with telescopes and binoculars, answering questions and helping people get a closer look at birds and other wildlife in the grounds.
James McComiskey, RSPB South East events officer, said: "There's plenty of action to watch at this time of year, with the waterbirds finding mates, building different kinds of nests, and then raising their young.
"Just identifying the different birds is fun to begin with. These include black, whooper and mute swans, various geese and ducks, grey herons and kingfishers. You may even see a buzzard [above] or a sparrowhawk fly overhead."
The RSPB's Date With Nature projects aim to bring people closer to nature.

THE MASTERS HISTORIC FESTIVAL

BRANDS HATCH
GRAND PRIX CIRCUIT

A MULTI-MILLION POUND COLLECTION OF RACING CARS FROM THE LAST 50 YEARS WILL COMPETE ON THE FAMED GRAND PRIX CIRCUIT ON BANK HOLIDAY SUNDAY AND MONDAY. VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS.

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GRANDSTAND SEATING (PER DAY)	£5
CHILDREN (12 & UNDER)	FREE

BrandsHatch

28/29/30 MAY 2011

0843 453 9000 WWW.BRANDSHATCH.CO.UK

BANK HOLIDAY

*ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE UP UNTIL MIDDAY WEDNESDAY 25 MAY. POSTAGE FEE APPLIES

EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

Toy Hearts
Americana goes Euro

The Flying Burrito Club, Sevenoaks
Friday, July 29
www.theflyingburritoclub.co.uk

BIRMINGHAM modern bluegrass and swing outfit The Toy Hearts, are being hailed as one of the UK's hottest acoustic acts.
With new single The Captain due for release, Hanna and Sophia Johnson are making waves in the music world.
The pair play a mixture of original bluegrass and western swing, carving their own niche between genres.
The Toy Hearts combine elements of Americana with a European edge.
Original song-writing and the fact they are a band based in the UK playing an essentially American style could make them stand out in the future.
Their new album, Femme Fatale, was produced in Nashville.

Local history
Smuggling exhibition

Ashford Museum
Open 10am to 1pm
01233 631 511
www.ashfordmuseum.co.uk

SMUGGLING In The Ashford Area 1790 To 1830 is the subject of an exhibition at the town's museum. In 1821, Cephas Quested, the leader of a notorious Ashford smuggling gang, was sentenced to death. He had been captured at the Battle of Brookland and accused of the murder of Preventative Officer James McKenzie. Quested had been part of the prolific Aldington Gang or 'the blues', who had been in operation from about 1820. Smuggled items from the Continent included silks, brandy, tea and tobacco in exchange for wool, money, cannon, iron, wheat and other items gathered in Kent, Sussex or further afield.
The Battle of Brookland was a landmark of smuggling history in Kent. Not only did it show the courage of men on both sides of the law, it also showed the amount of men involved, the planned procedures of landing the cargo, and the ferocious battle that ensued.
The exhibition shows a number of artefacts relating to Quested, including his snuff box (above), photographs of smuggling haunts in the area and a letter sent by Quested to his wife shortly before his execution.

Street sports
Skateboarding and BMX bikes

Armstrong Road, Maidstone
Saturday, June 25, 12pm
01622 602222
www.activmaidstone.com

THE popular skateboarding and BMX competition Uprockin is back for another year. Maidstone Borough Council will host the event at Sk8s'n'Bruises skate park at Armstrong Road.
You can join the fun and show off your tricks from midday to 6pm. There will also be the random wheel category for heelies, scooters and in-line skates or blades.
Last year, Uprockin attracted almost 2,000 skaters and extreme-sports fans, and this year the event could be even bigger. If you fancy yourself as the next Tony Hawk or Dave Mira, Uprockin' could be the time to prove your skills.
The competition is open to all ages and abilities, with some great prizes up for grabs, and there will also be some great entertainment for visitors just looking for a good day out.
There will be a bouncy castle, face-painting and sports clubs attending, so there will be something for all the family.
Free refreshments on the day include water and smoothies.
Uprockin is aimed at people aged between 11 and 21, and those who want to compete can just turn up on the day. It is free to watch and free to enter, so get practicing.
The prizes were donated by Kent Youth Service, Lovenskate, Revolution Skate Park and Rubicon Skate School.

Public art
Folkestone Triennial

Town centre, Folkestone
Starts Saturday, June 25
www.folkestonetriennial.org.uk
Visitor centre, 0845 202 0190

THE Folkestone Triennial, the second of its type, is set to be one of the most ambitious public-art projects in the UK.
This time the exhibition runs from June 25 to September after the 2008 event drew international attention to the town, with artists such as Tracey Emin showing off their talents. Nineteen artists have been invited to develop works for Folkestone's streets, squares, beaches and historic buildings, from sculpture to film to performance.
Artist Cornelia Parker has said she is casting a life-size bronze statue of Folkestone resident Georgina Baker in the pose of Copenhagen's famous Little Mermaid.
Meanwhile, Cristina Iglesias will create an architectural structure on the overgrown ramparts of one of the town's Martello towers, which will give the illusion of an entrance into another world.
Setting out a maritime theme, Hew Locke is suspending about 100 model ships in the nave of St Mary and St Eanswythe's Church.

The Orchard
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Coming to Dartford soon...

The Tiger Who Came to Tea
Tue 17 - Wed 18 May

Gervase Phinn
Tue 17 May

Tracey 'TJ' Higgs
Wed 18 May

T-Rextasy & Aladdinsane, Thu 19 May

Royal Artillery Band, Fri 20 May

Flip Flop, Sat 21 May

Five Ladies On A Bench
Mon 23 - Sat 28 May

Spirit of the Dance, Sun 29 May

www.orchardtheatre.co.uk
TICKET OFFICE 01322 220000

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Wed 11-Sat 14th May 7.30pm
£10
Group discounts for 10 or more
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DIE FLEDERMAUS — OPERA
Sun 15th May 7.30pm
£16/£14 Friends £12

DRAW ME A BIRD — FAMILY
Sun 12th June 3pm
Tickets £5
Family Member Ticket £21 for up to 6 people
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP IS £10 PER YEAR

SMOKE AND MIRRORS
Sat 28th & Sun 29th May 7.30pm
£12/ £10 Friends
A new educational play created by local participants that lets audiences look at the heritage site of the Theatre Royal Margate building in an entirely new light.

Theatre Royal Margate
Box Office: 0845 130 1786 or 01227 787787
www.theatreroyalmargate.com

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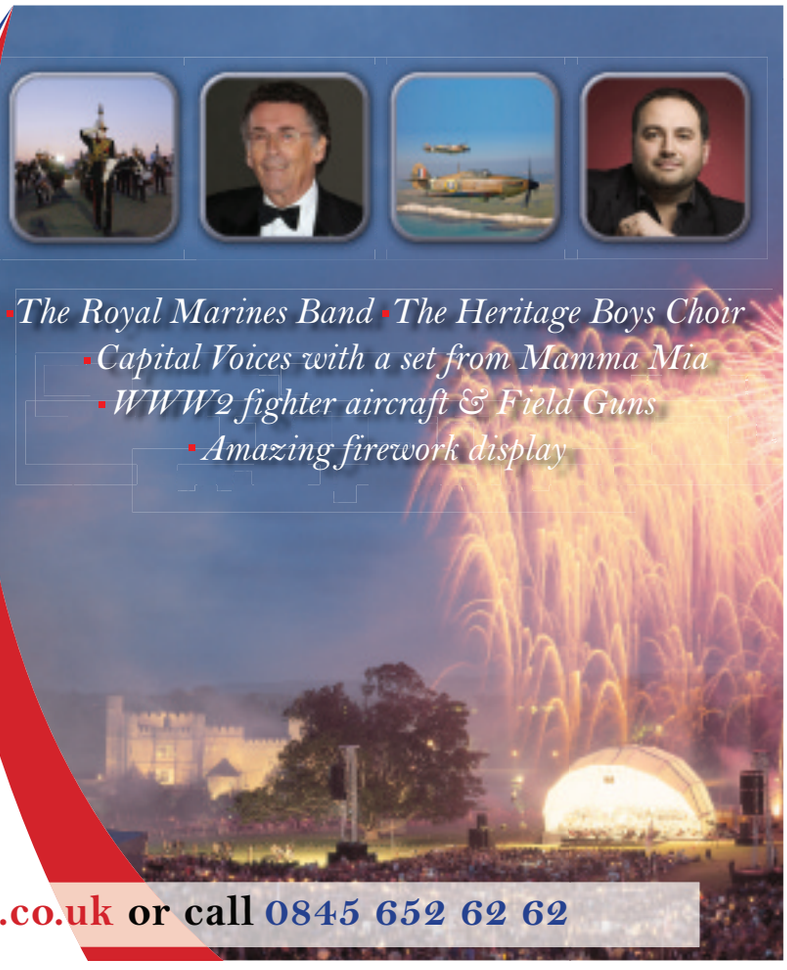

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STAGE & ARTS

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

Operetta
Die Fledermaus

Woodville Halls, Gravesend
Tuesday, May 24, 7.30pm
01474 337774
www.gravesham.go.uk

ONE of the world's most famous operettas returns to Gravesend with a new, saucy production of Johann Strauss's Die Fledermaus. Opera Della Luna, one of the country's best small-scale operetta companies, give this famous opera a glittering new look. The production is directed, with his own translation, by Jeff Clarke. Dr Falke was once left to wander home, drunk and dressed as a bat, by his friend Gabriel von Eisenstein. To exact revenge, Falke arranges for Eisenstein to attend a risqué party at the home of outrageous Russian aristocrat Prince Orlofsky, and there Eisenstein seduces a Hungarian countess, who is in fact his own wife in disguise.

Folk music
Clive Gregson and his guitar

Dartford Folk Club
Tuesday, May 17
www.dartfordfolk.org.uk
01322 222 553

GUITARIST Clive Gregson has written more than 250 songs. Listed as one of the 100 greatest guitarists ever, Gregson has provided material for other artists like Nancy Griffith and Kim Carnes and released more than 20 albums of his own compositions. Gregson was the leader and songwriter of Any Trouble, a quartet from Manchester who signed to Stiff Records in 1980 and subsequently to EMI America. They made five albums before splitting at the end of 1984. Around that time, Gregson heard Christine Collister in a folk club and the pair became a successful duo in the 90s. He is playing this warm-up in Dartford before touring with Jools Holland.

Festival
Lounge On The Farm comedy

Merton Farm, Canterbury
Friday to Sunday, July 8-10
www.loungeonthefarm.co.uk
Adult weekend ticket, £105

LOUNGE On The Farm chiefs have confirmed renowned comedians Sean Hughes and Phil Kay for the 2011 Comedy Tent. Irish-born Hughes, a veteran on the stand-up circuit and known for his appearances on Never Mind The Buzzcocks, will bring his dark humour down to Canterbury in July.
Phil Kay, a TV writer for the likes of Reeves & Mortimer, Harry Hill and Jonathan Ross, will also perform stand-up.
Lounge On The Farm has confirmed a wealth of new acts to the all-new Meadows Stage including DJ Format, British producer Justin Robertson and the founder of Dub Pistols, Barry Ashworth. British duo Smoke Fairies, with their blend of dark blues-folk, will be headlining the Folk Stage on Friday evening.
Headlining the main stage will be The Streets, Ellie Goulding, Echo & The Bunnymen and Blur's Graham Coxon.
The festival has carved itself a niche for its location on a working farm, with more than 10,000 visitors expected.

Comedy
Laughter trio of top talent

Salomons, Tunbridge Wells
Friday, May 20, 7pm
01892 507609
www.hahaheehee.com

THREE top comedians are heading to Salomons for the Tunbridge Wells Comedy Club showing in May. Host comedian Ryan McDonnell from Belfast has built a reputation in the UK with his sharp wit in his observations of everyday life. He made his debut last year at the Edinburgh Comedy Festival in the prestigious Pleasance Courtyard, from which critics at Three Weeks acclaimed his stand-up as "Apollo-quality live comedy".
Next up is Sam Avery. He wanted to be a rock star and it almost happened. Despite being signed up by BMG Records at the age of 17, and subsequent tours with Motorhead and Ice T, the story soon took a familiar turn. Contracts were anulled, money was stolen and before he knew it he was back at the paper shop asking for his fluorescent bag back.
Friendly and enthusiastic, his observational style puts audiences at ease, allowing him to regale them with his tales of everyday life.
The headline act, Gerry K, has already starred in FHM Comedy Heroes (Channel 4), The Bill (ITV), Angelo's (ITV) and The Hawkesby & Jacobs Show (TalkSPORT).
Anecdotal, observational and honest, Gerry K has performed across the UK and abroad.
Tickets for the show cost £12.

Burlesque
Cabaret of Curiosities

Brook Theatre, Chatham
Friday, May 20, 8pm
01634 338 338
www.medway.gov.uk

ROLL up, roll up, Dizzy O'Dare's Caberet of Curiosities is coming to Medway.
The mysteries of burlesque will be unveiled when Grace Dazzle and Khandie Khisses bring their special blend of entertainment to The Brook Theatre. The highly-rated show features a special performance by Craig the Incredible Hula Boy, who can hoop more rings around his body than you can imagine.
The Cabaret of Curiosities promises an unforgettable evening as it reveals its burlesque special.
Visitors are required to dress to impress for a night of alternative entertainment.
The show, which is not suitable for youngsters under 16, has put together Dizzy's workshop for children so they can also get involved and learn cabaret and circus skills on Sunday, May 29, at 3pm.

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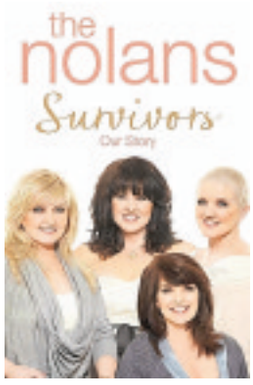
www.bradgatepark.co.uk

Sorry, not suitable for children.

BOOK REVIEWS



The Nolans: Survivors

Bernie, Coleen, Maureen and Linda

Sidgwick and Jackson, £16.99

FOUR of the Nolan Soisters have combined to write Survivors: Our Story, in which each one offers her own take on different phases in their life.

As individuals, they may have only been distinguishable by their hair colour when I'm In The Mood For Dancing became a hit in 1979, but today it's clear all four have very different personalities.

There's Coleen, 46, the baby of the group, and arguably the most successful, having been on ITV1's Loose Women for 11 years and noted for her wicked sense of humour and penchant for put-downs.

Then there's no-nonsense Bernie – feisty, outspoken and glam; Maureen, the dark-haired, pretty one who's the quietest of the clan; and Linda, blonde and blue-eyed, the most vulnerable and fragile of the four since losing Brian, her husband of 25 years, to cancer, and herself a victim of breast cancer.

Their stories read like a soap opera, featuring cheating men (think Shane Richie and Bradley Walsh), child abuse, life-threatening illnesses (three of the six sisters have had breast cancer), a bitter rift with their other sisters, Anne and Denise, and a half-sister they long to find.

The four have remained in showbiz. Bernie has appeared in Brookside and The Bill and is baring all in a touring production of Calendar Girls, while Maureen is appearing in The Naked Truth, set in a pole-dancing class.

"People lump us into one group, but we are all quite different," says Linda.

Talk moves on to Bernie's breast reconstruction following a mastectomy, her belated 50th party later this year and their various careers.

Bernie lives in Surrey, Coleen in Cheshire and Linda and Maureen are in Blackpool.

They say they all learned something by writing their own individual chapters in the book and then reading their sisters' entries.

Coleen says: "I found out something really interesting reading about my dad."

Which is?

"That I can read."

One From The Hart

Stefanie Powers

JR Books, £18.99

STEFANIE Powers was the darling of Seventies hit series Hart To Hart, co-starring Robert Wagner.

She was also girlfriend to Oscar-winning actor William Holden for nine years, until his death following a long struggle with alcoholism and depression.

As her autobiography, One From The Hart, is published, Powers talks about her Hollywood life, mixing with the great and the good, including Elizabeth Taylor, Lana Turner and Tallulah Bankhead, as well as the struggles she has faced in later life, including lung cancer.

It has been 30 years since Stefanie Powers and Robert Wagner raised cheesiness to new heights as a glamorous jetset couple doubling as amateur detectives in the hit American series Hart To Hart.

Powers, 68, reveals that one of the events in her life prompted her to write the memoir.

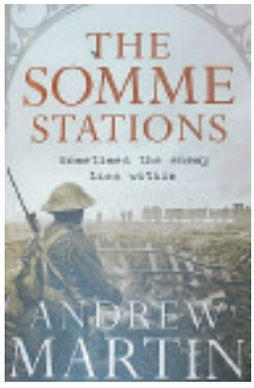
"In the space of a few months, I was diagnosed with cancer and my mother died [aged 96]. She had lived with me for the last 27 years of her life. I had to try and keep it all together for her."

Powers was diagnosed with lung cancer at the end of 2008 at an annual check-up, even though she had no symptoms indicating anything was wrong. Surgeons removed part of her right lung and more than two years later, she says she's fine.

"My scans have all been clear. The odds are that I will be able to join other cancer survivors in marching for a cure.

"I didn't have chemo or radiation."

Her mother, of Polish descent, had kept a lot of memorabilia which Powers found after her death, filling in the gaps of her story.



The Somme Stations

Andrew Martin

Faber, £12.99

ANDREW Martin has invented a genre of detective fiction almost all his own, featuring mysteries set among the railways of 19th- and early 20th-century Britain.

His first work, The Necropolis Railway, has achieved cult status since its release in 2002, and his detective, Jim Stringer, has become ever-more popular.

Now he is in the trenches of the First World War as part of The Railway Pals.

On the first day of the Somme, enlisted railwayman Jim Stringer lies trapped in a shell hole, smoking cigarette after cigarette under the bullets and the blazing sun.

He calculates his chances of survival – even before they departed for France, a member of Jim's unit had been found dead.

During the stand-off that follows, Jim and his comrades must operate by night the vitally-important trains taking munitions to the Front, through a ghostly landscape of shattered trees where high-explosive and shrapnel shells rain down.

Close cooperation and trust are vital, yet proof piles up of an enemy within. As a ferocious military policeman, he pursues his investigation into the original killing, but the finger of accusation begins to point towards Jim himself.

As well as the excellent characterisation, the reality of life in the trenches is brought to life vividly in a book which should delight military-history buffs, railway fans and armchair detectives.

MUSIC

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

Musicals
Voices Of The Night

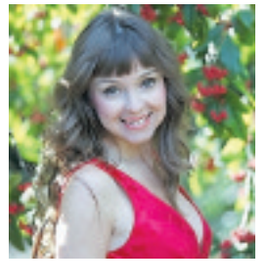
Club Dover, Whitfield
Friday, June 10
Tickets £15, includes meal
01304 829 216

CLASSICAL singer Rebecca Robinson and tenor Tim Pitman are staging an evening themed on well- known Broadway and West End shows at Club Dover.

Robinson has been working with Pitman since the pair dueted at the Birmingham Military Tattoo in November 2011. The audience reaction at this and later events inspired them to develop a show they could perform across the UK.

Voices Of The Night brings together the most memorable songs from the shows – The Phantom Of The Opera, Les Miserables, The Sound of Music – along with other classics.

Robinson said: "I'm thrilled to be putting this show on with Tim, who is an incredible talent. We share a passion for classical music and the songs from the shows, and to be able to devote an entire evening to this is hugely satisfying."



Tribute act
Johnny Cash Roadshow

The Orchard, Dartford
Thursday, June 2
01322 220 000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

THE Orchard will be hosting one of the best tribute acts to the late, great Johnny Cash and his wife June Carter-Cash next month.

Appearing as the notorious Man In Black, Clive John joins singing partner Jill Schoonjans and the band in smashing out Cash's hits from across the decades.

The group have become experts in Cash history, playing hits from the 1950s up to his last song, Hurt. Although there is more than a slight resemblance between Johns and Cash, the group pay tribute to the great singer without trying to impersonate him. There will be his best songs such as Folsom Prison Blues against a visual backdrop containing hundreds of images and clips taken during his life.

Classical
Home-town concerts

Astley Hall, Maidstone
Fri and Sat, June 10-11, 7.30pm
01622 358 439
www.luciadavanzo.cou.uk

FOLLOWING the success of her benefit recital in 2010, former Maidstone Young Musician of the year Lucia D'Avanzo is performing two concerts in the town. The first features Duo Figaro, Lucia's violin-viola ensemble with violist Peter Mallinson, while the next day D'Avanzo will play a violin recital, joined by fellow Royal Academy of Music student Sebastian Grand. Music by Bach, Franck and John Williams will feature.

TELEVISION Coming up soon

Bill and the baboons go ape to ensure a wildlife winner

Baboons With Bill Bailey

Fridays, 8pm, ITV 1

PANEL-SHOW comedian Bill Bailey was not the first person to spring to mind when making a documentary about a family of wild baboons.

Of course it isn't the first time the long-haired one has been up close and personal with animals; he did, after all, front Wild Thing I Love You. While that hardly went down a storm, Bailey and his baboons have.

In fact they've whipped the viewing public into that much of a frenzy that we don't mind altering our weekend plans to stay in and watch it. For those yet to catch an episode, Bailey provides a light-hearted commentary as he explores the daily routines of three troops of baboons in Cape Town.

The host follows three troops of baboons, charting their varied existence, which comes complete with politics, sex, violence and crime. Bailey sums them up as "the highway robbers of the Smitz troop, the rustic rascals the Tokai troop and the urbanites of Da Gama".

The Cape Town Smitz troop of primates, led by criminal mastermind Merlin, lie in wait to raid the cars of tourists distracted by the sight of whales close to the shore.

The group have learnt how to open car-doors and quickly procure whatever it is they've eyed up.

The facinating animals capture the imagination of the audience as well as Bailey, who brings his brilliantly-timed one-liners to a very new type of wildlife show.

This week, Fred and the rest of the Smitz baboons are preparing to defend themselves and their home from a neighbouring troop led by alpha male TK1.

Meanwhile, Tokai newcomer Clint has found himself a bit of female company, and the Da Gamas break into a kitchen and help themselves to an Italian meal. Of course, there is no way that Bailey can tip off the unsuspecting humans – that would be a crime against nature.

NATURE: Bill Bailey follows three troops of mischievous baboons as they make their way in the world

Murray's pub landlord serves a feast of fowl humour

THE newest game show around, in which contestants from across the country face general-knowledge questions in a bid to win a frozen chicken.

In the way old-school boozers would often have a meat raffle for the locals on a Sunday, comedian Al Murray has taken his portrayal of the extreme pub landlord to the next level.

Comedy channel Dave has commissioned Avalon Television to bring Al Murray's sell-out Edinburgh Festival Show 2010 to television this month. The series will be hosted by Murray as the Pub Landlord and has the accolade of being the world's only televised meat-based quiz show.

Al Murray's Compete For The Meat

Thursday, May 19, 9pm, Dave

The 'steaks' are high in the ultimate TV pub quiz hosted by the Guv'nor himself as four teams of two play for the dubious honour of taking home the chicken and the accolade of being slightly smarter than the competition.

Runners-up can expect to walk away with sausages, while the only thing the losing team can look forward to is a Slow Walk Of Shame.

Steve North, Dave's channel head, said: "As soon as we saw the show in Edinburgh we knew we had to have it on Dave. Al's unique combination of intelligent and ridiculous humour ensures this will be a big hit for us."

And as a wise landlord once said, a good pub is always pleased to meet you and always has meat to please you.

AWASH WITH GLAM: Phillip Schofield and pals

Soaps prepare to clean up at event

The British Soap Awards

Wednesday, May 18, 8pm, ITV 1

NOBODY 'sort of' watches soap operas. No, you either watch them or you don't. You know the cast and characters, or you have no interest whatsoever. If you're one of the millions who spend a good chunk of their lives waiting to find out if Ken and Deirdre will make it to a happily-ever-after, then the soap awards are probably bigger news than the Oscars to you.

A lot can happen in a year – especially if you happen to live in Weatherfield, Walford, Emmerdale or Hollyoaks. In these places there are likely to be plenty of births, deaths, marriages, divorces, hit-and-runs, surprise returns, cat-fights and kidnappings. So it's a good job we have the British Soap Awards to remind us what has happened in the last 12 months.

The 13th annual ceremony is hosted by the ever-reliable Phillip Schofield and, of course, all the big players like Coronation Street, EastEnders, Emmerdale, Hollyoaks and Doctors will be fighting it out for the ultimate accolade of Best British Soap.

The red carpet will be full with actors and actresses who enter households around the UK and Benidorm on a daily basis ready with their acceptance speeches and tissues.

This year has seen a few milestones in the soap world, with Corrie racking up its 50th year of existence, going big with the anniversary celebrations in the form of an epic tram-crash which killed off and maimed a few characters.

The fireball tram-crash has already been nominated for both the Best Single Episode and Spectacular Scene Of The Year awards. A Coronation Street spokesman said: "After such a magnificent year, including the 50th anniversary episodes, we're hoping it'll be a great night for all involved."

There are 15 award categories in total, including Best Actor, Sexiest Male and Female, Best Comedy Performance, Villain Of The Year and Best On-Screen Partnership.

Naturally, the Corrie crew is hoping that the tram storyline will help break the EastEnders dominance of recent years. The Londoners have bagged a hat-trick, taking the Best Soap Award three times since 2007.

OK, it's not quite the Brits – there are not usually-drunken rockstars shouting at cameras and making themselves look ridiculous on stage, but there will be the hottest property on UK terrestrial television on show as the girls and the guys look to claim style points for their outfits. Fingers crossed for a punch-up!

Following the main event, ITV 2 has bagged the viewing rights to the after-show party. Guest presenters Sheree Murphy, Brian Dowling and Joe Swash will guide soap addicts through coverage of the bash. And there are usually a few stories to come out of there courtesy of booze-fuelled interviews with the stars.

FILMS

OUR TOP FIVE

1 Fast & Furious 5 (12A) Former cop Detective Brian O'Conner (Paul Walker) and lover Mia Toretto (Jordana Brewster) spring her brother Dominic (Vin Diesel) from a prison bus, then cross borders, eventually hiding out in Rio with Dom's childhood friend, Vince (Matt Schulze). They are double-crossed by drug lord Reyes (Joaquim De Almeida) and they vow revenge by stealing 100 million dollars.

2 Arthur (12A) Arthur Bach (Russell Brand) is heir to his family's vast fortune, presided over by his emotionally cold mother, Vivienne (Geraldine James). Vivienne informs Arthur that he will marry corporate executive Susan Johnson (Jennifer Garner) to ensure she can take charge of the company. If Arthur refuses, he will be cut off from his inheritance and the privileged lifestyle he has known since birth.

3 Red Riding Hood (12A) Valerie (Amanda Seyfried) lives in a village plagued by a werewolf. Every full moon, the locals tether a pig to a stake as a sacrifice and lock their doors. When the beast claims the life of Valerie's sister under a blood-red moon, werewolf-hunter Father Solomon (Gary Oldman) vows to unmask the killer in their midst. Love triangles and bloodshed through this gothic-style film.

4 Scre4m (15) It has been 10 years since the harrowing events of Scream 3, and traumatised survivor Sidney Prescott (Neve Campbell) has slowly put her shattered life together. She has penned a self-help book about the events and embarks on a book tour, which culminates in a visit to her home town. Original cast members Courtney Cox and David Arquette join this latest Scream episode.

5 Rio 3D (U) The latest animated movie from the makers of the Ice Age series, Rio is a feel-good movie which has thrills, spills and plenty of humour. Blu (voiced by Jesse Eisenberg) is a domesticated blue macaw living a relative life of luxury in sleepy Moose Lake, Minnesota. His life takes a turn when he meets the delightfully feisty Jewel (Anne Hathaway) and takes off to Rio with the bird of his dreams. Good fun.

NEW RELEASES

Hanna

12A, 111mins

DIRECTOR Joe Wright (Pride & Prejudice, Atonement) tries his hand at the action genre with this fast-paced thriller about a girl with extraordinary powers.

The London-born film-maker imprints his distinctive artistic vision on Seth Lochhead and David Farr's script.

He conjures a mood of impending doom as the conflicted characters traverse the globe before a climactic showdown that hammers home the fairy-tale allegory.

However, aesthetic concerns occasionally get in the way of a jolly good romp and, consequently, Hanna sits nervously between two distinctive audiences – arthouse and multiplex.

Sixteen-year-old Hanna (Saoirse Ronan) lives in snowbound Scandinavia with her father Erik (Eric Bana), honing the fighting skills she will need for the perilous mission that lies ahead: to kill ruthless CIA agent Marissa Wiegler (Cate Blanchett).

"She won't stop until you're dead or she is," warns Erik as his protegee increases her strength. "So be sure," he adds, "because I won't be there to hold your hand."

Once she is trained and primed for action, Hanna bids farewell to her father, whispering his mantra: "Adapt or die".

She embarks on her quest to kill Wiegler with assassin Isaacs (Tom Hollander) and his henchmen on her trail. En route, Hanna meets hippie mother Rachel (Olivia Williams), her despairing husband Sebastian (Jason Flemyng) and sassy daughter Sophie (Jessica Barden).

"What did your mum die of?" Sebastian asks Hanna tenderly, having learned of the girl's loss many years ago. "Three bullets," replies the eponymous heroine.

Hanna plays out a Bourne Identity-style game of cat and mouse between the plucky teenager and her pursuers, including a breathless chase through a shipyard.

Wright can't resist directorial flourishes and shoots a sequence at Berlin airport in an apparently single take, reaching a crescendo with Erik brawling with four knife-wielding assailants.

Ronan captures both the steeliness and vulnerability of her girl on the cusp of womanhood, while Blanchett relishes her role as the villainess with an oral-hygiene fixation.

Williams and Flemyng are poorly served, considering the amount of scene time afforded their characters, while Barden, who was hysterical in Tamara Drewe, scene-steals merrily here, too. The Chemical Brothers soundtrack pumps up the volume and the ardenalin of the film.

Thor 3D

12A, 114mins

KENNETH Branagh returns to the director's chair for a special effects-laden romp based on the popular Marvel Comics superhero.

Thor is his most technically demanding film to date, but digital trickery and pyrotechnics don't appear to faze Branagh, who balances the slambang thrills of a summer blockbuster with romance and broad comedy.

Chris Hemsworth possesses the imposing physical presence of the titular hammer-wielding god of thunder, who is brought down to Earth – literally – to learn about humility. He sensibly leaves the emotion to Oscar-winners Natalie Portman and Anthony Hopkins, who inject passion and fury to a predictable narrative that journeys from AD 765 to the present day, incorporating elements of classical Norse mythology in the underlying story of sibling rivalry.

In the realm of Asgard, ruled by Odin (Hopkins), Thor (Hemsworth) is an arrogant heir to the throne. He acts first and thinks later, endangering his companions. The fallen god materialises in the New Mexico desert, where he befriends scientist Erik Selvig (Stellan Skarsgard) and protegee Jane Foster (Natalie Portman).

The attraction between Thor and Jane is palpable, but without his powers, the fallen god must face the same trials and tribulations as any other mortal.

CINEMAS

ASHFORD CINEWORLD MULTIPLEX: Eureka Leisure Park. Box office 0871 2208000

BECKENHAM ODEON: High Street. Box office 0871 2244007

BEXLEYHEATH CINEWORLD: 28 The Broadway. Box office 020 83031550

BLUEWATER SHOWCASE WATER CIRCUS: South Village. Box office 0871 2201000

BROADSTAIRS PALACE CINEMA: Harbour Street. Box office 01843 865726

BROMLEY EMPIRE: 242 High Street. Box office 0870 5050007

CANTERBURY ODEON ST: George's Place. Box office 0871 2244007

CHATHAM CENTRAL THEATRE: 170 High Street. Box office 01634 338338

DOVER SILVER SCREEN: Market Square. Box office 01304 228000

FAVERSHAM ROYAL: 9 Market Place. Box office 01795 591211

FOLKESTONE SILVER SCREEN: Guildhall Street. Box office 01303 221230

GULBENKIAN THEATRE: University of Kent. Box office 01227 769075

HAWKHURST KINO: Victoria Hall, Rye Road. Box office 01580 754321

HERNE BAY KAVANAGH: Herne Bay Leisure Centre. Box office 01227 365676

MAIDSTONE ODEON: Lockmeadow. Box office 0871 2244007

RAMSGATE GRANVILLE: Victoria Parade. Box office 01843 591750

ROCHESTER CINEWORLD: Multiplex Medway Valley Park. Box office 08701 560568

SANDWICH EMPIRE: Delf Street. Box office 01304 620480

STAG COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE: Stag Theatre, London Road. Box office 01732 450175

TRINITY ARTS CENTRE: Church Road, Tunbridge Wells. Box office 01892 678678

TUNBRIDGE WELLS ODEON: Knights Way. Box office 0871 22 44007

VUE: Westwood Cross, Broadstairs. Box office 08712240240

CARLTON CINEMA: Westgate-on-Sea, 25-29 St Mildred's Road. Box office 01843 832019

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- Excursions
- All transfers abroad

Thames Valley & Marlow Christmas

4-star Crowne Plaza Hotel, Marlow, Buckinghamshire
Self drive, 4 nights, half board-plus
Quote XP12-KOS
£319pp

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- 4 full-English breakfasts
- One 3-course festive Christmas lunch
- Nightly entertainment including a disco one night

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Departs: Fri, June 25, 2011

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Grease & Saturday Night Fever Xmas Party

Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel, Isle of Wight - Over 40s only
Self drive, 3 nights drinks inclusive
Quote MX11-KOS
£279pp
£10pp DEPOSIT

Friday, November 25 to 28, 2011

Join us for a Christmas party where we're turning the clock back to the 70s when John Travolta and the Bee Gees fired everyone's imagination with fabulous movies and groovy soundtracks. Our party includes a screening of the movie Grease, a Bee Gees Tribute act and Free Drinks every day.

PRICE INCLUDES:
- FREE drinks from 3.30pm to 11pm Friday, 12noon to 11pm Sat & Sun
- Dinners & Breakfasts
- Entertainment includes movie screening of Grease and Bee Gees Tribute act
- En-suite bedroom - upgrades available
- Leisure facilities: Indoor pool & sauna
- Return Car Ferry

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Departs, Sept 19, 2011

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Isle of Wight Christmas Party

Warner Norton Grange Resort, Isle of Wight - Over 40s only
Self drive, 3 nights, drinks inclusive
Quote NX11-KOS
£209pp
£10pp DEPOSIT

Friday, November 25 to 28, 2011

Join us for an early Christmas party on the Isle of Wight. We're bringing our usual brand of fun and games to Norton Grange with plenty of festive entertainment and food on the menu. We've retained the popular Free Drinks so the party is bound to go with a swing.

PRICE INCLUDES:
- FREE drinks from 3.30pm to 11pm Friday, 12noon to 11pm Saturday & Sunday
- Dinners & Breakfasts
- Live variety entertainment
- En-suite chalet with TV, tea/coffee tray - upgrades available
- Leisure facilities: Indoor pool & sauna
- Return Car Ferry

SHOPPING

Toys for boys

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

Boys like toys, and there is a wide range to suit all ages in the shops today. Video games may be among the most popular, but which young and young-at-heart person doesn't like to be given something a little bit more traditional? Here is a series of gifts which any boy will just love to get his hands on. Some are linked to films and DVDs out now, while others are time-honoured favourites.

Basketball
Shoot the hoops and be an LA Laker or New York Knick with this basketball set.
£120
www.woolworths.co.uk

Pirates of the Caribbean: The Queen Anne's Revenge
Pirate ship in Lego is one to take some time to get just right.
£102.99
www.shop.lego.com or high-street stores such as Asda, Tesco and Sainsburys

Buzz blaster
A toy from one of the top movies of recent years which will give you a flavour of outer-space action.
£15
woolworths.co.uk

Star Wars
This Jedi Shuttle is from the Clone Wars animated movie and comes complete with action figures.
£49.99
www.shop.lego.com or high-street stores such as Asda, Tesco and Sainsburys

First Bike
There's nothing quite like a first bike for that feeling of freedom and a love of the open road, even if it's just wheeling around the garden. Get him started with this two-wheeled design from John Crane.
£53
www.john-crane.co.uk

Train set
Every boy just loves toy trains and this set by John Crane featuring the City of London will be just the starter to get him off on the right track.
£40
www.john-crane.co.uk

Car Wash Kit
You can make sure your four wheels are all in good shape and sparkling clean with this kit.
£20
www.woolworths.co.uk

Monkey
This cheeky monkey from specialist quality manufacturer John Crane will be a handful of fun for younger boys.
£49
www.john-crane.co.uk

Fire Engine
A stylish and action-packed wooden fire engine by John Crane is just the thing to get the imagination going.
£37
www.john-crane.co.uk

HOMES

Give your bathroom the colours it needs to make it the perfect sanctuary from which to emerge refreshed in the morning and relaxed at night

Colour is as important in the bathroom as anywhere else and the right shades can give a really warm and welcoming feel to what is one of the most important rooms in the home.

To make sure that you can devote time to making yourself look and feel good, there is much to recommend taking the necessary steps to ensure you get just the right environment.

Geoff Wells, bathroom planning expert for Dolphin, explains how important is the use of colour in the bathroom:

He said: "Bathrooms are a real sanctuary, providing that all-important refuge from our busy lives where we devote time to ourselves, from first thing in the morning to last thing at night."

There have been many advances in recent years as to what constitutes the best finish for a bathroom.

Geoff said: "People have always dabbled with colour, but thankfully we've come a long way since the likes of the avocado suite – which has been well and truly banished.

"For a small minority of homeowners, where money is no option, you will often see a whole suite decked out in the season's latest must-have colour, with the suite changing as often as their wardrobe. However, for the majority of us, and from our experience, it is the classic white suite which remains a firm favourite with homeowners.

"Colour is a great opportunity to show off your bathroom. Dolphin appreciates this and its passion for colour is reflected in its stunning range of tiles, from pastel Indian summer shades to scorching red ripple, earthy Bolero and stylish Lustre Mosaic tiles.

"To make the most of colour opportunities, it is best to look to the colour wheel. It is easy to see one tile and like the colour, but you need to make sure of the colour's impact and how it will suit your space. Using red can energise a room or bring warmth; orange is a happy and invigorating colour; yellow is stimulating; green is harmonious and restful; and blue is serene and spacious, while purple can be dramatic and sensual. For an-on trend solution, place colours in contrasting blocks for a mix-and-match approach. This can give longevity to a bathroom and provide a real focal point.

"For a different approach, why not make your bathroom that bit more sumptuous by adding tiles with a more unique finish such as textured, gloss or a metallic lustre? Dolphin's Oxide tiles have a metallic-bronze finish, which means you are guaranteed to end up with a chic and sophisticated bathroom design that will create a feeling of warmth without necessarily using a daring colour.

"Another way to enhance colour in the bathroom is to pay attention to the room's light source. If you have just one central light, consider a dimmer switch so the ambience can be adjusted, or choose low-voltage downlighters as they wash the walls with light and highlight key areas of the room. By adding 'slices' of light, you will create a multipurpose haven to unwind in."

All fittings start from £6,000

Bathrooms

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

GEOFF'S TOP TIPS ON THE BENEFITS OF USING COLOUR:

1 Warm colours can energise and invigorate a room – perfect for waking you up in that early-morning shower.

2 Cool colours have calming and soothing effects; let them soothe away your troubles.

3 Colours appear more intense next to white – consultations at Dolphin help you see the real impacts of your colour scheme before you are thrown in the deep end!

4 To keep your suite looking shiny and spotless, opt for colour schemes with high contrasts such as a bright white suite with black tiling.

5 Pay attention to the room's light source; light colours can compensate for a small window, whereas dark reds and terracottas can really darken a room.

HOMES

The Old Inn
Wittersham

£950,000

■ SEVEN BEDROOMS ■ THREE BATHROOMS ■ SIX RECEPTION AREAS ■ FAMILY/MUSIC ROOM ■ KITCHEN ■ CELLAR ■ SUN TERRACE ■ HEATED SWIMMING POOL

Old Inn an oasis of charm

THE OLD Inn is a beautifully-presented period village home of immense charm and character offering superbly restored and well- proportioned accommodation situated in the heart of the popular village of Wittersham near Tenterden.

This historic Grade-II listed residence of which part of the property was once the village ale house around 1828 was also the former home of Lawrence Alma-Tadeama, close friend of actress Dame Ellen Terry, who first introduced Alma to Wittersham in 1905.

Lawrence Alma, with the help of Sydney Durling, undertook a first restoration of The Old Inn in 1905-06, which a plaque in the drawing room acknowledges. The present owners have restored the property, incorporating a stylish blend of modern fittings which complement the abundance of fascinating features befitting the age of the house.

The wealth of accommodation is arranged over three floors, with seven bedrooms, three bathrooms, three cloakrooms, six reception rooms, kitchen, utility room and cellar.

There are beautifully-maintained landscaped gardens, together with a heated swimming pool and sun terrace. There is also a double open bay garage approached by an ample driveway via an electrically-operated five-bar gate.

The property is on a well-maintained and landscaped plot. The garden is enclosed so enjoys a degree of seclusion and backs on to some picturesque orchards.

The gardens are laid to lawn, with numerous flowers, shrubs and pathways leading between the features.

All of the exterior adds up to a tranquil and attractive environment that complements the stylish interior perfectly.

The garden has an original well with a raised terrace and changing room.

The village and the property is famous for its association with Terry, who became the leading Shakespearean actress in Britain. Among the members of her famous family is her great-nephew, Sir John Gielgud.

In 1878 she joined Henry Irving's company as his leading lady and for more than the next two decades was considered the leading Shakespearean and comic actress in Britain. Two of her most famous roles were Portia in The Merchant Of Venice and Beatrice in Much Ado About Nothing. She and Irving also toured with great success in America and the UK.

In 1903, Terry took over management of London's Imperial Theatre, focusing on the plays of George Bernard Shaw and Henrik Ibsen. The venture was a financial failure, however, and Terry then toured and later also lectured. She continued to find acting success until 1920, while also appearing in films until 1922. Her career lasted almost seven decades.

The village has an award-winning CAMRA-approved public house, The Swan, and a restored white weatherboarded post-mill, Stocks Mill.

While the rural location is an important part of the property's appeal, Wittersham is by no means cut off.

Tenterden, one of the most attractive towns in the Weald of Kent, is just five miles away and it has a high street bustling with stores, bars, cafés and pubs.

The local secondary school, Homewood, is so highly thought of that visitors from academic establishments throughout the UK and further afield are frequent visitors.

The Weald itself boasts its 'Seven Wonders', including gardens and castles set among some of the most unspoilt countryside in England.

Nearby Ashford also has a private school and both girls' and boys' selective schools as well as excellent shopping facilities. It has been branded "Europe's Best Placed" by the local council because of its excellent communication links to London and the Continent.

Wittersham housed a key listening post for downed pilots over the Channel during the Second World War, but all that is left now is a small concrete house and a few craters dotted around as a result of attacks by the Luftwaffe and several doodlebug strikes.

There is a popular and well-attended community market every Tuesday morning in the village hall specialising in organic and fresh food as well as a variety of other products.

■ **Viewing through Your Move Weald; phone 01580 762241 or alternatively visit www.your-move.co.uk.**

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Luxury comes as standard in new-homes upgrade

OVER the last couple of years, Jones Homes's Kingsborough Manor development at Eastchurch on the Isle of Sheppey has become one of the island's most aspirational places to live.

An impressive range of traditional-style four- and five-bedroom homes, large gardens, an attractively-landscaped setting and outstanding value for money have tempted many new-home-buyers to Sheppey. Now these new properties are about to get a whole new look.

"The style and the specification at Kingsborough Manor are of an extremely high quality and have been ever since Jones Homes first launched the development.

"We are always improving and upgrading the standard specification on our schemes, and Kingsborough Manor is no exception," said Sara Stanhope, of Jones Homes Southern.

"We have selected new kitchen styles, included granite worktops as standard, and added a whole new range of ceramic floor tiles."

With prices from £365,000 to £525,000, there's a new home at every price level at Kingsborough Manor, including an impressive collection of the largest houses that form Regents Place on the development.

Kingsborough Manor has attracted buyers from all over Kent, including Medway, Sittingbourne, Bromley, Bexley and Bickley.

Many people have come to Sheppey thinking it is 'too far' from other Kent towns but have been pleasantly surprised by its accessibility.

To arrange an appointment to view the show home at Kingsborough Manor, phone the sales team on 01795 881084 between 10am and 5.30pm.

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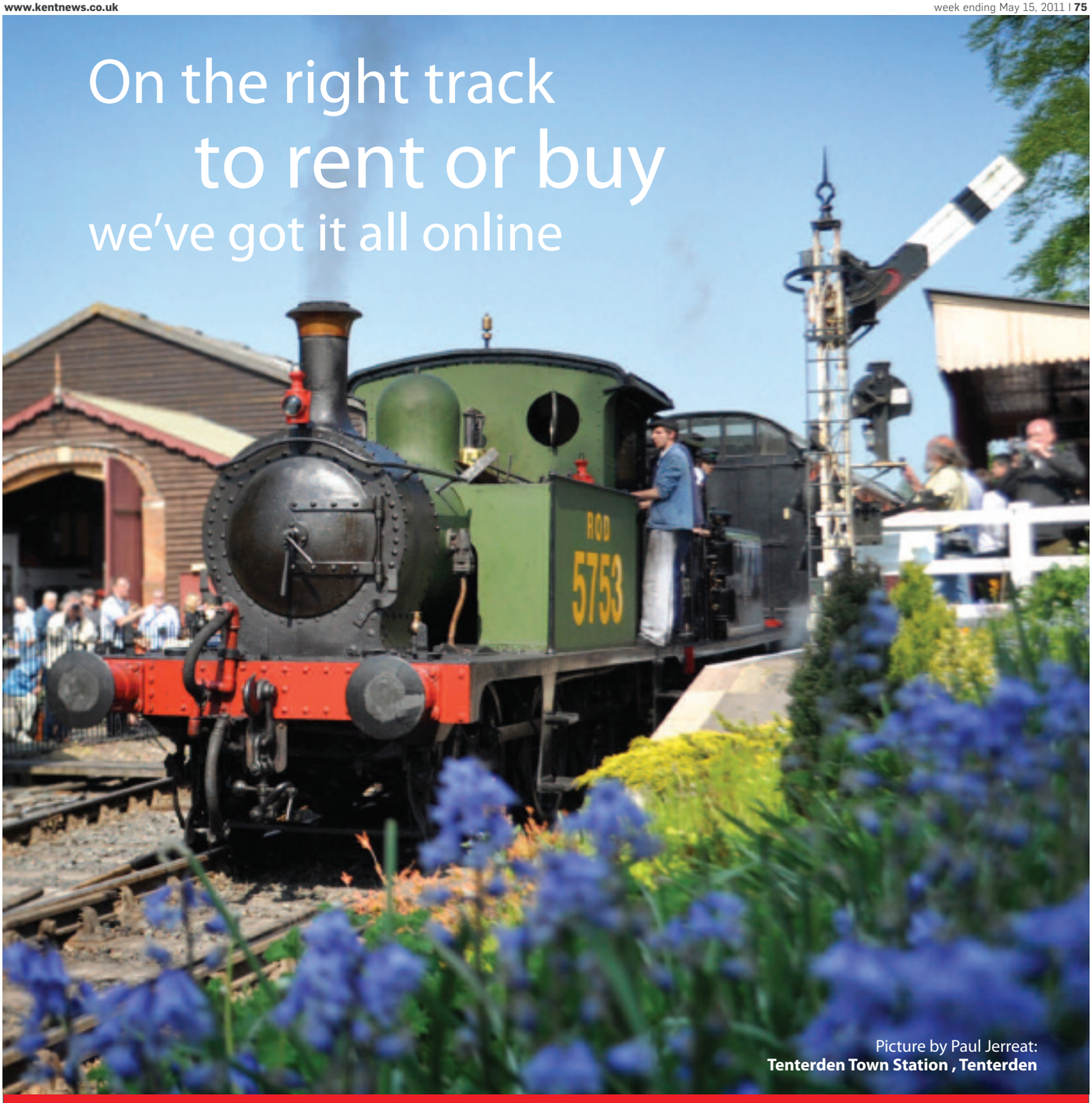

Picture by Paul Jerreat:
Tenterden Town Station , Tenterden

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Mitsi crossover a winner

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

FOR a long time, Mitsubishi seemed stuck in the same time warp as US car giants, building gas guzzlers for an era that crashed spectacularly with the 2007 recession.

Suddenly, from trading in the UK on the strength of its 4x4 muscle with the legendary Shogun off-roader series and the chunky L200 pick-up for Marlboro Man wannabes, the Japanese marque had to impress with rather more modest motors.

The stopgaps have been the capacious yet cruelly under-rated Colt supermini and the value for money Lancer saloon and hatch.

But Mitsi's sharply-styled ASX – short for Active Sporting Crossover – is the real deal; an all-new model that arrived last year to attack a popular new crossover sector of the market opened up by the Nissan Qashqai.

The styling is more Nissan than the answer from Peugeot, in the fluid form of the 3008, and it is sharply priced from £15,999.

The entry money buys into a 115PS (113bhp) 1.6-litre petrol unit, which we haven't had the benefit of driving and would normally dismiss anyway at this level on the grounds that it is likely to be too weak yet juicy to propel a vehicle like this.

However, it looks surprisingly attractive on paper with an average mpg in the late 40s, acceleration only marginally inferior to the lively diesel and cleaner CO2 emissions (135g/km) against the diesel (from 145g/km) – how often do you read that?

Making a choice is still not easy though, because the 147PS (143bhp) 1.8-litre diesel engine is impressive and all the more so because Mitsubishi is not noted for producing small diesels, having pinned its hopes more on direct injection petrol units in the past.

This comeback unit is petrol-smooth and revs eagerly, with a pleasing warble from the turbocharger as the driver makes the most of the unit's cut and thrust power in town traffic.

The diesel prices start at £20,199, as tested here in ASX '3' spec which comes with cruise control and heated seats; across the range the ASX easily undercuts equivalent Qashqais. Like the Nissan, most are front-wheel drive only, but there is full four-wheel drive at the upper end of the range and starting at a not unreasonable £22,299.

Whichever engine or drive format you go for, Mitsubishi has signalled its desire to get into step with tougher times by giving all models its 'Auto Stop & Go' system, to automatically cut and restart the engine when traffic is crawling or the car is stuck at the lights.

Though the ASX wears the now familiar 'jet fighter' nose found on smaller Mitsubishis, there is rather less excitement inside; the cabin is functional rather than innovative, the finishes smart and durable rather than stylish.

But the ASX is competitively priced and generously specc'd – alloys, MP3 connections, keyless entry and go are standard – and especially roomy for three adults in the back. Those who need more room can check out Mitsi's equally competent Outlander with its two extra seats.

Boot space is also generous and there is a large hidden compartment beneath the floor and a 'ski-hatch' behind the rear armrest – ideal for long pieces of timber from the DIY store.

Ride quality is rather more on the comfort side which makes for good long-distance performance, but at the price of some body lean on the bends – the usual problem for higher-riding cars like this.

But it is one of the few faults in a car that feels sure-footed, is rewarding to drive and cuts a dash in the styling department.

MITSUBISHI ASX 3 1.8 DIESEL: PRICE £20,199

THE RIGHT BLEND: Mitsubishi ASX is good-looking as well as good to drive and generously specc'd to boot

FACT FILE

Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
Reliabilty:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	£125

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First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS

Wait for Astra is almost over

VAUXHALL will reveal prices and open order books on June 7 for the eagerly-awaited Astra three-door model – to be called the GTC. The spin-off from the stylish five-door and estate/Tourer models already on UK roads will then premiere at the Frankfurt Motor Show on September 15. The GTC is widely tipped to set new standards in driving pleasure.

Toyota leader in hybrid field

TOYOTA is first choice when thinking who to turn to for a hybrid or electric vehicle. That was a key finding in a European survey by auto research bodies EurotaxGlass's and Harris Interactive. Of those questioned, 30 per cent professed an interest in electric or hybrid vehicles, with Toyota the company with the highest brand awareness.

Mazda name all-new SUV

MAZDA's all-new compact crossover SUV, due to launch in the UK in 2012, will be called the Mazda CX-5. It features the Japanese marque's SKYACTIV technologies, including new-generation lightweight powertrains, bodyshell design and chassis engineering – a headache for established crossovers like the Nissan Qashqai.

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Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai range: Urban 25.9 (10.9) - 61.4 (4.6), Extra Urban 39.8 (7.1) - 74.3 (3.8), Combined 33.2 (8.5) - 67.3 (4.2) CO_2 Emissions 225 - 99 g/km.

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Model shown is the 1.2 SZ4 5 door M/T available at £12,505.00 on the road (metallic paint available at £399.00).

*Swift range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): urban from 41.5 (6.8) to 46.3 (6.1), extra urban from 57.6 (4.9) to 64.2 (4.4), combined from 50.4 (5.6) to 56.5 (5.0). Official CO_2 emissions from 129g/km to 116g/km.

†The Suzuki Swift 1.2 M/T models fall into Government Vehicle Excise Band C at £30 per year from year 2 onwards, first year free. ΔESP® is a registered trademark of Daimler AG. All prices and specifications are correct at time of going to press.

MOTORING

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'Wagon' to push Focus up rankings

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

NOW into its third generation, the Ford Focus is tipped to climb further up the UK car rankings with this month's launch of a sleek estate model.

The all-new Focus arrived in March and immediately jumped to second in new car sales league for that month, despite being available only in five-door hatch format.

It slipped back to fifth in April, but the arrival of other versions should restore its fortunes against the superminis that dominate the top of the charts, including its Ford Fiesta sister.

Judging by the five-door hatch, the three-door model could easily justify a coupe label when it arrives.

For now though, Ford reckons a further 15 per cent of would-be Focus buyers have been waiting for the 'wagon' model, especially as estate cars stage something of sales revival after suffering at the hands of people carrier/MPV models and pseudo off-roads models or SUVs.

The new Focus estate (from £17,100) provides a balance of dynamic looks and functional practicality. Standard full-length integrated aluminium roof rails enhance the attractive design, while the tailgate incorporates a compact roof spoiler.

At 2,648mm, the estate shares the same wheelbase as the five-door, but overall length is

increased by 198mm to 4,556mm. This gives valuable extra space, without sacrificing the compact dimensions of the Focus.

With rear seats in place, the estate has a large, regular load compartment, with a volume of 476 litres.

The rear seats offer a flexible 60/40 split and have a convenient 'flip and fold' mechanism to tip the seat cushion forward and create a flat load platform with the seat backs.

In two-seat mode, the maximum load capacity is a substantial 1,502 litres.

Customers can tailor the load compartment with accessories including floor liner mats and luggage nets, dog guards and load retention barriers. The polished roof rails allow for a complete roof carrier system, including

dedicated crossbars to transport everything from bicycles to skis.

The estate is available with the same low-CO2 powertrains as the five-door version, including the new 150PS (148bhp) 1.6-litre Ford EcoBoost turbocharged direct injection petrol engine, and a choice of advanced and improved Duratorq TDCi common-rail diesel engines, all of which offer significant reductions in fuel consumption compared to the outgoing model.

In addition to the highly efficient petrol and diesel powertrains, the new Focus range also incorporates other features from Ford ECOnetic green technologies to help minimise fuel consumption and CO2 emissions.

All vehicles with 1.6-litre Ford EcoBoost petrol and 1.6-litre TDCi diesel engines are equipped with standard Auto-Start-Stop, meaning CO_2 emissions of 109g/km on the diesel.

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- 2008 (08) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles £5,995
- 2008 (58) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 7000 miles £5,995
- 2008 (08) CHEVROLET KALOS SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, SPORTS BLUE, 18000 miles £5,495
- 2008 (08) CHEVROLET KALOS SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles £5,495
- 2006 (56) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles £4,995
- 2008 (57) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 24000 miles £4,495

HYUNDAI

- 2011 (11) HYUNDAI I20 COMFORT 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 1200 miles £10,995
- 2008 (08) HYUNDAI COUPE SIII COUPE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 4000 miles £9,995
- 2010 (10) HYUNDAI I10 COMFORT 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 750 miles £7,995
- 2008 (58) HYUNDAI GETZ GSI 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles £6,995
- 2008 (08) HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI MPV AUTO, BLUE, 10000 miles £6,495
- 2008 (08) HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI MPV AUTO, WINE RED, 13000 miles £6,495
- 2008 (08) HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI MPV AUTO, WINE RED, 7000 miles £6,495
- 2008 (08) HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI MPV AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles £6,495
- 2008 (08) HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles £5,995
- 2007 (57) HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI SALOON AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles £5,995
- 2008 (08) HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 24000 miles £5,495
- 2005 (54) HYUNDAI GETZ CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles £4,695
- 2003 (03) HYUNDAI GETZ CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 32000 miles £3,495

KIA

- 2009 (09) KIA CEED GS 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles £8,995
- 2009 (59) KIA PICANTO STRIKE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 4000 miles £6,995
- 2008 (08) KIA PICANTO 2 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles £5,495

DAIHATSU

- 2008 (08) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £6,995
- 2008 (08) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles £6,995
- 2007 (57) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles £6,495
- 2007 (07) DAIHATSU SIRION 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 20000 miles £5,995
- 2007 (07) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles £5,995

BMW

- 2009 (59) BMW 3 SERIES 320I SE COUPE AUTO, BRONZE, 4000 miles £19,995
- 2008 (08) BMW 3 SERIES 320I SE COUPE AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles £18,995
- 2008 (57) BMW 3 SERIES 318I M SPORT TOURING ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles £16,995

FIAT

- 2010 (10) FIAT PUNTO EVO DYNAMIC DUALOGIC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 500 miles £9,495

FUSION

- 2010 (60) FORD FUSION TITANIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 3000 miles £10,995
- 2010 (10) FORD FUSION ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1800 miles £9,995
- 2008 (08) FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 13000 miles £7,995
- 2008 (08) FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, SEA GREY, 3000 miles £7,995
- 2009 (09) FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 16000 miles £7,495
- 2008 (08) FORD FUSION ZETEC CLIMATE 5DR HATCH AUTO, OCEAN BLUE, 20000 miles £5,995

CITROEN

- 2009 (59) CITROEN C3 EXCLUSIVE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 350 miles £8,995
- 2008 (58) CITROEN C3 EXCLUSIVE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles £7,995
- 2006 (06) CITROEN XSARA PICASSO DESIRE 16V ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 40000 miles £5,495

CORSA

- 2010 (60) VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 750 miles £11,995
- 2010 (10) VAUXHALL CORSA EXCLUSIV AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 6000 miles £9,495
- 2009 (09) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ULTRA BLUE, 4000 miles £7,995
- 2008 (58) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 12000 miles £7,995
- 2008 (58) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 11000 miles £7,995
- 2007 (57) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, LANCELOT GOLD, 5000 miles £6,995
- 2008 (08) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 2000 miles £6,995
- 2008 (08) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 12000 miles £6,995

MAZDA

- 2010 (60) MAZDA 2 2 TS2 ACTIVEMATIC 5DR HATCH AUTO, CRYSTAL WHITE PEARL, 1650 miles £10,995
- 2008 (58) MAZDA 3 3 TAKARA 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 5000 miles £9,995
- 2008 (08) MAZDA 3 3 TS2 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles £8,995
- 2006 (56) MAZDA 6 6 TS 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 21000 miles £6,995
- 2007 (57) MAZDA 2 2 CAPELLA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles £6,495
- 2007 (56) MAZDA 2 2 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles £5,495

SUZUKI

- 2009 (59) SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £8,995
- 2007 (57) SUZUKI SX4 GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles £7,495

TOYOTA

- 2006 (56) TOYOTA RAV-4 XT4 VVT-I ESTATE AUTO 4x4, BLACK, 35000 miles £12,995
- 2010 (60) TOYOTA YARIS TR VVT-I SENSODRIVE HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 960 miles £10,995
- 2010 (10) TOYOTA IQ VVT-I IQ 3DR HATCH AUTO, PURPLE, 6000 miles £9,495
- 2007 (57) TOYOTA AURIS T SPIRIT VVT-I MM 5DR HATCH AUTO, IXION BLUE, 14000 miles £8,995
- 2010 (10) TOYOTA AYGO BLUE VVT-I 5DR HATCH, CARIBBEAN BLUE, 6000 miles £7,995
- 2005 (54) TOYOTA YARIS VERSO T SPIRIT VVT-I MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles £7,495
- 2005 (55) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 3DR HATCH AUTO, CRYSTAL SILVER, 5000 miles £6,495
- 2005 (05) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles £5,995
- 2005 (05) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 3DR HATCH AUTO, CARLO BLUE, 5000 miles £5,995
- 2007 (57) TOYOTA AYGO BLACK VVT-I MM 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 20000 miles £5,995
- 2003 (03) TOYOTA YARIS CDX VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 46000 miles £4,995

NISSAN

- 2010 (10) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLADE SILVER, 10000 miles £19,995
- 2010 (10) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAYMAN BLUE, 5000 miles £16,995
- 2009 (09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, FIRED IRON, 7000 miles £15,995
- 2008 (08) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH, FADED DENIM, 18000 miles £15,995
- 2008 (08) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAYMAN BLUE, 10000 miles £14,995
- 2007 (57) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 14000 miles £13,995
- 2010 (60) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 300 miles £11,995
- 2007 (07) NISSAN QASHQAI VISIA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLADE SILVER, 4000 miles £11,995
- 2010 (60) NISSAN CUBE KAIZEN 5DR HATCH AUTO, WHITE, 3000 miles £11,995
- 2010 (60) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, RED, 600 miles £11,995
- 2009 (59) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, INTENSE BLUE, 6000 miles £9,995
- 2010 (59) NISSAN NOTE N-TEC MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 5000 miles £9,995
- 2010 (10) NISSAN MICRA N-TEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BEIGEBUFF, 9000 miles £9,995
- 2009 (59) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles £8,995
- 2009 (09) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles £8,495
- 2009 (58) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAFFE LATTE, 7000 miles £7,995
- 2010 (60) NISSAN PIXO N-TEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 999 miles £7,995
- 2008 (08) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 14000 miles £7,995
- 2008 (08) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, CAYMAN BLUE, 10000 miles £7,995
- 2008 (08) NISSAN NOTE ACENTA MPV AUTO, ORANGE, 21000 miles £6,995
- 2008 (57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles £6,995
- 2007 (57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles £6,995
- 2007 (57) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 3DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 18000 miles £6,995
- 2007 (57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles £6,995
- 2006 (56) NISSAN NOTE SE MPV AUTO, ORANGE, 21000 miles £5,995
- 2006 (56) NISSAN MICRA INITIA 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles £5,995
- 2006 (56) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 19000 miles £5,495
- 2005 (05) NISSAN ALMERA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles £4,995
- 2005 (05) NISSAN MICRA S 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 5000 miles £4,995
- 2004 (54) NISSAN ALMERA TINO S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles £4,995
- 2005 (55) NISSAN ALMERA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 39000 miles £4,995
- 2005 (54) NISSAN ALMERA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAFE LATTE, 9000 miles £4,995
- 2005 (05) NISSAN ALMERA S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 11000 miles £4,995
- 2004 (54) NISSAN MICRA SE 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 32000 miles £4,695

LAND ROVER

- 2009 (59) LAND ROVER FREELANDER TD4 S TURBO ESTATE AUTO 4x4, GREY, 6000 miles £19,995

ASTRA HATCHBACKS

- 2008 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, PANACOTTA, 15000 miles £9,995
- 2009 (59) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles £9,995
- 2010 (59) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 miles £9,495
- 2009 (59) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 3DR HATCH AUTO, TECHNICAL GREY, 5000 miles £9,495
- 2009 (09) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, SILVER LIGHTNING, 14000 miles £8,995
- 2009 (59) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 2000 miles £8,995
- 2009 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles £8,495
- 2008 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles £8,495
- 2008 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, ULTRA BLUE, 11000 miles £7,495
- 2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, TURQUOISE, 20000 miles £6,995
- 2008 (08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, PANNACOTTA, 14000 miles £6,495
- 2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles £5,995
- 2008 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, TURQUOISE, 16000 miles £5,995
- 2007 (07) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, TURQUOISE, 3000 miles £5,995

NEW MODEL ASTRA

- 2010 (60) VAUXHALL ASTRA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 2000 miles £14,995

ASTRA ESTATES

- 2008 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles £7,995
- 2009 (09) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles £7,995
- 2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles £6,995
- 2008 (08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 miles £6,495
- 2006 (56) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V ESTATE AUTO, PANACOTTA, 18000 miles £6,495

ZAFIRA MERIVA & AGILA

- 2009 (09) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV CDTI TD MPV AUTO, ICE GREEN, 9000 miles £12,995
- 2008 (08) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA DESIGN 16V MPV AUTO, SILVER LIGHTNING , 9000 miles £9,995
- 2010 (59) VAUXHALL MERIVA CLUB 16V MPV AUTO, STEEL BLUE, 3000 miles £9,495
- 2008 (08) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, STEEL BLUE, 11000 miles £8,995
- 2009 (59) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, GOLD, 3000 miles £8,995
- 2008 (08) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA CLUB 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 12000 miles £8,995
- 2007 (57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 14000 miles £7,995
- 2008 (57) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 7000 miles £6,995
- 2008 (08) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 2000 miles £6,995
- 2008 (08) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 16000 miles £6,995

PEUGEOT

- 2010 (10) PEUGEOT 207 SPORT 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 7000 miles £10,995
- 2010 (60) PEUGEOT 308 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 1000 miles £10,995
- 2010 (10) PEUGEOT 207 S 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 7000 miles £9,495
- 2008 (08) PEUGEOT 307 SW SE ESTATE AUTO, DIABLO RED, 13000 miles £8,995
- 2008 (08) PEUGEOT 207 SE PREMIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 12000 miles £8,995
- 2007 (07) PEUGEOT 307 S COUPE CABRIOLET COUPE AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles £8,995
- 2008 (57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 14000 miles £7,995
- 2010 (60) PEUGEOT 107 URBAN 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 850 miles £7,995
- 2007 (57) PEUGEOT 206 LOOK 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 2000 miles £6,995

MITSUBISHI

- 2007 (57) MITSUBISHI LANCER ELEGANCE ESTATE AUTO, GREY, 19000 miles £6,995

HONDA

- 2008 (57) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC ES 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles £17,995
- 2008 (57) HONDA CR-V ES AUTO 5DR AUTO, SPARKLING GREY, 17000 miles £17,995
- 2007 (07) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC ES 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, GREY, 24000 miles £16,995
- 2006 (06) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC SE ESTATE AUTO 4x4, BLACK, 26000 miles £11,995
- 2009 (09) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 3000 miles £9,995
- 2008 (58) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles £9,495
- 2008 (08) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 16000 miles £8,995
- 2007 (07) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 8000 miles £8,495

MERCEDES

- 2008 (58) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A170 AVANTGARDE SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles £13,995
- 2010 (60) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, MOUNTAIN GREY, 1610 miles £13,995
- 2009 (59) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 4000 miles £13,995
- 2009 (09) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, STEPPE BROWN, 13000 miles £12,995
- 2007 (57) MERCEDES-BENZ C CLASS C180K AVANTGARDE SE SALOON AUTO, CUBANITE SILVER, 23000 miles £12,995
- 2007 (57) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 6000 miles £9,995
- 2007 (57) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 AVANTGARDE SE 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 11000 miles £9,995
- 2007 (56) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 12000 miles £8,995
- 2002 (02) MERCEDES-BENZ SLK SLK230 KOMPRESSOR CONVERTIBLE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 38000 miles £7,995

VOLKSWAGEN

- 2011 (11) VOLKSWAGEN POLO SE DSG 5DR HATCH, BLACK, 750 miles £12,995
- 2008 (57) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH FSI 115 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 17000 miles £11,995
- 2006 (06) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles £9,995
- 2007 (07) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF S 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 17000 miles £9,995
- 2009 (59) VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, REFLEX SILVER, 780 miles £9,995
- 2006 (06) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF PLUS GT TDI DSG 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, GREY, 47000 miles £9,995
- 2009 (09) VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles £8,995
- 2008 (58) VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH 3DR AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles £8,995
- 2009 (09) VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles £8,995
- 2008 (08) VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles £7,995
- 2008 (08) VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 11000 miles £7,995
- 2007 (07) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S 3DR HATCH AUTO, REFLEX SILVER, 16000 miles £6,995
- 2005 (05) VOLKSWAGEN POLO TWIST 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 7000 miles £5,495
- 2005 (05) VOLKSWAGEN LUPO E 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £5,495
- 2002 (02) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 32000 miles £3,995

DIESEL AUTOMATICS

- 2010 (60) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA ELITE CDTI TURBO MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles £16,995
- 2010 (60) VAUXHALL MERIVA SE CDTI TD MPV AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles £15,995
- 2009 (59) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE DCI FAP TURBO MPV AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles £15,995
- 2009 (59) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 4000 miles £13,995
- 2009 (09) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, STEPPE BROWN, 13000 miles £12,995
- 2009 (09) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV CDTI TD MPV AUTO, ICE GREEN, 9000 miles £12,995
- 2006 (06) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF PLUS GT TDI DSG 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, GREY, 47000 miles £9,995

MORRIS'S MANUAL CARS

- 2009 (F) FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 3DR HATCH, WHITE, 3000 miles £9,995
- 2006 (06) JAGUAR X-TYPE S D TD SALOON, RED, 72000 miles £6,995
- 2005 (55) TOYOTA COROLLA T3 COLOUR COLLECTION VVT-I 5DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 33000 miles £5,995
- 2006 (56) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V TWINPORT 3DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 2000 miles £5,495
- 2003 (03) PEUGEOT 206 CC SILVER COUPE, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 27000 miles £4,695
- 2008 (08) RENAULT TWINGO DYNAMIQUE 3DR HATCH, ORANGE, 35000 miles £4,695
- 2007 (07) KIA PICANTO LS 5DR HATCH, BLUE, 17000 miles £4,495
- 2005 (05) NISSAN ALMERA TINO SE 5DR HATCH, RED, 12000 miles £4,495
- 2005 (05) VAUXHALL CORSA SXI 16V TWINPORT 3DR HATCH, BLACK, 51000 miles £3,995
- 2005 (05) VAUXHALL AGILA ENJOY 16V TWINPORT MPV, GOLD, 20000 miles £3,995
- 2004 (04) FORD FIESTA FLAME 16V 3DR HATCH, BLUE, 50000 miles £3,695
- 2006 (06) FORD KA DESIGN 3DR HATCH, BLACK, 39000 miles £3,695
- 2002 (51) VAUXHALL ASTRA COMFORT 16V 5DR HATCH, BLUE, 41000 miles £2,695

SKODA

- 2008 (58) SKODA ROOMSTER 2 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £7,995

QASHQAI

- 2010 (10) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLADE SILVER, 10000 miles £19,995
- 2010 (10) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH, BLACK, 6000 miles £19,995
- 2010 (59) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 12000 miles £19,495
- 2009 (09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, FIRED IRON, 7000 miles £15,995
- 2008 (08) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH, FADED DENIM, 18000 miles £15,995
- 2008 (08) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 4WD 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, FIRED IRON, 17000 miles £15,995
- 2008 (08) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAFFE LATTE, 11000 miles £15,995
- 2008 (08) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAYMAN BLUE, 10000 miles £14,995
- 2007 (57) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 14000 miles £13,995
- 2007 (07) NISSAN QASHQAI VISIA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLADE SILVER, 4000 miles £11,995

MINI

- 2010 (60) MINI COOPER MINI COOPER 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 1700 miles £14,995

FIESTA

- 2008(58) FORD FIESTA GHIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, MOONDUST SILVER, 5000 miles, £8,495
- 2008(08) FORD FIESTA GHIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, AMETHYST, 5000 miles, £7,995
- 2008(08) FORD FIESTA STYLE CLIMATE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 5000 miles, £6,995
- 2008(08) FORD FIESTA STYLE CLIMATE 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, OCEANBLUE, 18000 miles, £6,495

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11 REG

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11 REG

Astra Excite 5dr

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11 REG

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VOLVO

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FOOTBALL

PROLIFIC: Cody McDonald

Cody not ruling out Gills move

AFTER a hugely successful season on an individual level, Cody McDonald thanked Gillingham for improving his game and left the door open for a return next season.

The 24-year-old scored 25 goals in 41 league starts on loan from Norwich City.

McDonald, who won five of the six prizes at Gillingham's end of season awards last weekend, returned to the Canaries this week to discuss the future.

The former Dartford forward admitted City's promotion to the Premier League made staying unlikely and made it clear if the Gills could finance a deal, which remains a doubt, he would be happy to come back after such a good year.

He said: "I think going back to Norwich is obviously going to be difficult as I didn't really play in League One or the Championship. I'm not ruling out a move to Gillingham, but it's out of my hands.

"I've thoroughly enjoyed working with all the coaching staff, they've all been brilliant for me and definitely helped my game."

FOOTBALL

Clear-out heralds the start of Hessenthaler's rebuilding task

By David Pritchard
david.pritchard@archant.co.uk

Pictures: ADY KERRY

GONE: Mark Bentley's (centre) five-year stay with Gillingham came to an end this week when he was one of eight players told they would not be offered new contracts

THE consequences of Gillingham's failure to reach the League Two play-offs were laid bare this week when the club chose to release almost a third of their senior squad.

In the wake of the eighth-place finish, sealed with a 3-1 defeat in the final game at Chesterfield last weekend, manager Andy Hessenthaler opted to release eight of the 16 first-team players out of contract this summer.

The clear-out signals the start of what is expected to be a busy summer at Priestfield. By releasing so many players it will free up room in the wage budget to bring in fresh blood.

Hessenthaler felt he was restricted by the number of players contracted to the club when he took over last summer. The Gills boss is keen to reshape the squad, knowing there can be no excuses in missing out on promotion next year.

He said: "We've got to rebuild now. We believed we had a promotion-winning squad this season, but it turned out not to be the case.

"It's a big season next season, the pressure's on even more now because it will be into my second year. We're not in it for anything else other than being successful, when you're not it's disappointing but it does take time."

Mark Bentley was arguably the most high profile of the casualties this week. The club captain had made almost 200 appearances for the Gills during his five-year stay.

The midfielder departed with a heavy heart, but admitted it was not a surprise after falling down the pecking order to the extent he went on loan to Cambridge last month to stay fit.

"If I'm honest I accepted it maybe a few months ago," he said. "When you're not in the side you're biting your lip trying to get back in. I went out on loan as well to get some football, so in the back of my mind I had prepared myself for the inevitable.

"It's been a rollercoaster but I've enjoyed every minute of it. I like to think I've given my all to the club but unfortunately that's life and sometimes you have to move on."

The 33-year-old has no intention of hanging up his boots, but is braced for an anxious few weeks with competition for places fierce.

He said: "It's tough, there will be hundreds of players unemployed and looking for new clubs. I need to look at my options, it's going to be an interesting few weeks but an exciting time as well.

"When I went to Cambridge it was a buzz and maybe I was getting a bit stale at Gillingham.

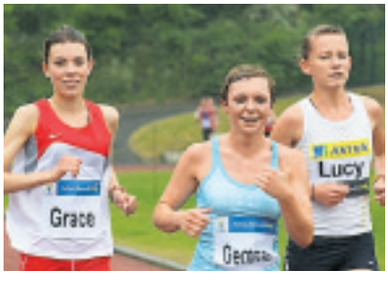
"There's no question about it, I want to keep playing. When you get to 30 people start questioning whether you've still got the legs for it and all that rubbish, but it just makes me more determined to hit the gym this summer and get myself really fit. I'd love to think I could get another club in the Football League but money is really tight at a lot of places. "

Of the rest of the group released there were few surprises. Mark McCammon, rumoured to be one of the squad's higher earners, failed to justify why he was handed a three-year deal in an injury-plagued stay which saw the striker contribute just five goals.

Alan Julian and John Nutter may have cause to feel slightly aggrieved after starting more than two-thirds of the league games this season, while Josh Gowling was another regular to exit.

Tony Sinclair, Lance Cronin and Andy White were unable to convince Hessenthaler of their ability at League Two level after joining a year ago.

ATHLETICS



Kelly helps Grace

GRACE Nicholls (left) continued her track season preparations by attending a mentoring session of training and workshops with Dame Kelly Holmes last weekend.

The Tonbridge athlete travelled to Birmingham as part of the Future Stars with Kelly programme. Nicholls said: "It was really motivational, it's so inspiring being with Kelly and so many talented athletes."

COUNTDOWN TO THE OPEN

60 DAYS: Tom Watson had a putt to win the 2009 Open at Turnberry two months short of his 60th birthday, before going on to lose a play-off to Stewart Cink

BEN Curtis will return to the scene of his greatest victory later this month as he plays at Royal St George's to promote this summer's Open Championship.

The American recorded one of the biggest shocks in modern golf history when he won The Open at the course in Sandwich eight years ago.

Ranked just inside the world's top 400, he memorably fought off a group of established stars, including Tiger Woods and Vijay Singh, to win by one shot.

By doing so the 300-1 shot became the first player to win The Open on their first appearance since Tom Watson lifted the Claret Jug at Carnoustie in 1975.

Curtis, who has since won twice on the PGA Tour, is back in Kent this month. He will play the final three holes at Royal St George's to assist organisers The R&A's build-up to the renowned tournament.

As part of the measures to improve the event for spectators, Southeastern will extend its high-speed train service from London to stop at Sandwich during The Open, which begins on July 14.

To demonstrate how fans can travel from St Pancras International to the course in 80 minutes, Curtis will catch a train from the capital on May 25.

The 33-year-old, who qualifies for this year's championship as part of his winners' exemption, is due to play the 16th, 17th and 18th holes – all of which have undergone improvements in preparation for The Open.

The former US Ryder Cup player will then conduct interviews with the assembled media before making the return journey to the capital.

TRIUMPH: Ben Curtis in 2003

RUGBY

Relegation brings relief at the end of Canterbury's struggles

By Steve Tervet
steve.tervet@archant.co.uk

CANTERBURY head coach Danny Vaughan admitted it was "a relief" to be relegated from National 2 South on the final day of the season, following his side's dramatic defeat to Kent rivals Westcombe Park.

The city club went into the derby last weekend needing a draw to preserve their place in the division and send Combe tumbling through the trapdoor and they led 18-13 midway through the second-half. However, when Canterbury skipper Chris Hinkins was sent to the sin-bin with nine minutes remaining, the visitors seized the initiative and grabbed two late tries to run out 25-18 winners.

At the end of a campaign which saw his side plagued by injuries and increasingly swimming against the tide of more powerful clubs from London and the South West, Vaughan said he was simply glad to hear the final whistle.

"There wasn't much said afterwards," he said. "For me, it was more relief because it's been such a long season and it's been so hard for us to get results. It was almost a relief when the final nail was put in our coffin because at least we know where we are now.

"Combe are up but unless they invest in their squad, they're going to be in the same position next year. National 3 is going to be a tough league and we'll be in with some tough sides we never thought we would play. It all depends on the squad we've got, whether the players are going to be around next season and where we're going to go for our own recruitment."

Giles Hilton, the club's chairman, agreed that while relegation from rugby's fourth tier was a bitter pill to swallow, dropping into National 3 London & South East could carry short-term positives.

"It's disappointing but we live to fight another day," he said. "We'll be looking to establish ourselves in the league below but we'll see how things progress in the league above. National 2 South is becoming more of a western league and I think it's exciting times for the club because we're testing new waters, we're playing clubs we haven't played before."

Vaughan confirmed he will continue as head coach next season but the playing personnel available to him remains to be seen. He expected to learn the future plans of all his players by this weekend and knows forward planning is key to the club's immediate future.

He said: "If some decide they've had enough, they may decide to move on, and I know there are clubs talking to some of our players.

"At this time of year, it becomes a bit of a lottery and we've got to get our act together this year and make sure we've nailed everybody down who's going to stay."

SEVENS SIDES DO BATTLE

CLUBS from across Kent and beyond will descend on Merton Lane this Sunday as Canterbury RFC hosts the annual Spitfire Sevens tournament.

The home club walked away with the top prize a year ago but face stiff competition from county rivals and invitational teams if they are to claim their share of this season's £1,500 prize money.

Visiting Kent teams include Thanet, Deal and Maidstone, while the students of Unversity of Kent and Canterbury Christ Church will also be looking to gatecrash the party.

Canterbury chairman Giles Hilton said: "It's a slightly lower-key affair than in the past, there isn't the razzmatazz as we've had before. It's getting late in the season but there's still £1,500 up grabs and it should be a good quality tournament."

Picture: IGOR KUPCO

DOWN: Danny Vaughan saw his Canterbury side relegated on the last weekend of the season

ICE HOCKEY

Dynamos coach hails double signing as Smith named captain for next season

PLANS for the new ice hockey season are advancing quickly at Invicta Dynamos with two key players committing themselves to the club for another year.

Andy Smith and Corey Watkins are the first to put pen to paper and join the roster as the Mos look to rebuild after finishing their first campaign in a decade without any silverware.

Smith will also captain the side, taking over from Karl Lennon, who has retired.

Kevin Parrish, the Mos' head coach, is delighted such an important duo have signed up.

He said: "They're massive signings for us, especially this early in the summer. It shows they're happy here and willing to give it another go.

"Andy volunteered to be captain after Karl stood down and he wants to lead the team to big things. He's not the most vocal player but the players all respect him and he is a leader on the ice."

Picture: DAVID TREVALLION

CAPTAIN FANTASTIC: Andy Smith

"Corey's a different breed, he's no care whatsoever for his body and plays through the pain week-in week-out."

Parrish is hopeful the signings will convince the nucleus of his squad from last season to re-sign for the team as early as possible.

RUGBY

Twickenham debut holds key to Caprice World Series hopes

LIFE as a rugby sevens international reaches a new high for Dan Caprice next week as he gears up the penultimate leg of the World Series in front of his home crowd at Twickenham.

Caprice has scored tries for England all over the globe but this will be his first taste of the London Sevens and the Chatham-born wing admits the weekend presents a voyage into the unknown.

"I've never played in it before so I don't know what to expect," he said. "I missed the last couple of years but I'm going to have a lot of friends and family there, so I can't wait.

"It'll be great, being in the home changing-rooms, and I've heard it's a similar atmosphere to Dubai and Hong Kong. I'm trying not to think about it too much or else I'll get nervous.

"I've played at Twickenham a few times but never in front of this amount of people."

England's quest for the world title is likely to hinge on their performance at Twickenham, with New Zealand holding a 13-point advantage at the top of the table. With pool games against the United States, France and Argentina to negotiate on Saturday, Caprice knows how big an impact his London debut could have on the destination of the championship.

"Realistically, if we want to win [the title] then we need to take out Twickenham and do well at Edinburgh," he said. "We're not planning too far ahead, New Zealand have a few more points than us so it's about making sure we just do our best."

TOURING CARS WITH TIM HARVEY

Touring car legend TIM HARVEY has teamed up with Archant KOS Media this season to bring you a weekly column as he looks to retain his Porsche Carrera Cup title. Harvey, who was brought up in Sevenoaks and schooled in Tonbridge, is in his second spell with Wrotham-based team Motorbase Performance. He describes his defence of the Carrera Cup crown as well as sharing his thoughts, as an ITV commentator, on the British Touring Car Championship

'Driver rivalries part of race life'

"WITH three of the 10 race weekends now behind us, the BTCC has again proven itself to be a fiercely competitive environment. There are genuine rivalries in the paddock and certainly, some drivers have past grievances that perhaps carry on after the races have finished.

The obvious ones are between Matt Neal and Jason Plato, Neal and Rob Collard, and there are some others. Generally speaking, though, the drivers feel that what goes around comes around and there's no point taking it off the circuit, as you lose focus on what you're doing.

Rivalries last for years and it adds to the entertainment for the supporters. Whether you're in the Neal camp or the Plato camp, it gives you something to follow in addition to the races themselves.

Obviously, Plato's big beef at the moment is not with Matt Neal per se, it's with Honda, the rules, and with TOCA, the organisers of the BTCC, in relation to the turbo regulations in place for this season.

Drivers like to have a reputation for not being easy to pass, to give the impression to other drivers that they're a tough nut, that you have to be careful when you approach them. If they've got that reputation, they'll hope to make other drivers think twice, not to take them for granted.

During my time in the BTCC, my big rival was always John Cleland. We had plenty of battles on the track and I always wanted to have the last word off the circuit, too. If he said something about me, I'd say something about him, so it went back and forth between us.

I have to say, I did enjoy that aspect of it. I always liked the sports psychology side; it's a powerful tool in any driver's armoury. If you can undermine your competitors in any way, you can expose a weakness, and that's all part and parcel of racing.

Outside the BTCC and Carrera Cup, I follow the rest of the support races closely. I'm a passionate lover of the sport and I'm always watching out for young drivers and future participants in the British Racing Drivers' Club (BRDC) Super-Stars programme, of which I'm a director.

One of the young drivers who's impressed me has been Jake Hill. Moving up to the Ginetta Supercup is a big step, but he's looked very accomplished so far. Jake's shown real adaptability in getting hold of the car and taking it to its limits. He's got more learning still to do but he's shown he can be a real aggressive racer."

FOOTBALL

Cascarino's transfer tracksuit up for sale

A QUIRKY item of Gillingham memorabilia is being auctioned for charity.

When Tony Cascarino signed for the club from Crockenhill the Kent League side's fee for the then-teenager was 11 tracksuits.

One of the now famous training kits has recently been recovered.

Autographed by both Cascarino, the ex-Chelsea, Marseille and Republic of Ireland striker, and legendary former Gills boss Keith Peacock, it is up for auction in a charity appeal launched by Demelza House.

Interested bidders should contact Terri Kennor on 01795 845288.

MOTORSPORT

Camier sorry as error ruins Monza weekend

LEON Camier apologised to his Aprilia team after blowing the chance of a podium finish in round four of the World Superbike Championship at Monza.

Mechanical difficulties last Sunday forced the Ashford racer to settle for eighth in race one, but he looked set for a top three finish in the second race, only to make a mistake and abandon.

"I have to say sorry to all of my team," Camier said. "A podium was definitely on the cards, which would have been a great end to a couple of races where we've had nothing but bad luck."

The series resumes on May 30 at the Miller Motorsports Park in Utah, USA.

HOCKEY

Ladies cause upset to pull off cup hat-trick

A SUPERB season for Maidstone ladies ended in style as they completed a hat-trick of Kent Cup victories.

The team followed up their East Regional Premier League title with a 7-3 win against Canterbury ladies at Polo Farm last weekend.

Jess Cremin scored a hat-trick, while Jody Goodwin netted a brace. Lizzie Daniels and Courtney Cummins were also on the scoresheet against a strong Canterbury line-up to lift the trophy for the third year running.

Roger Daniels, Maidstone chairman, said: "To take on and convincingly beat the mighty Canterbury on their own turf was thrilling."

CYCLING

No Lincoln double for House as attack fails

KRISTIAN House made an impact at the Lincoln Grand Prix but despite riding aggressively was unable to stay at the front for the finish.

The 31-year-old attacked on the first lap of the 87-mile race and the breakaway stayed clear of the peloton until the half-way mark.

House, who was born in Canterbury, was attempting to win the race for the second time following his victory in 2006.

His Rapha Condor Sharp team stayed at the front of the pack for most of the closing stages, but were overtaken on the last climb of the final lap. House eventually finished in 22nd place, 23 seconds behind race winner Scott Thwaites.

CRICKET

Kent emphasise the benefits of a successful Academy programme

By David Pritchard
david.pritchard@archant.co.uk

Pictures: ADY KERRY

AT A time when the value of bringing young players into the first-team could scarcely be more relevant, Kent's Academy has published its strategy for the future.

Financial difficulties at the county in recent years have squeezed the playing budget, to the extent where young talents are playing an increasingly prominent role in the senior team in the absence of expensive overseas signings.

While the reliance on rookies is unlikely to yield instant success on the pitch, with Kent heading for another LV= County Championship defeat at Glamorgan as this newspaper went to press, long-term it is hoped the experience will pay off.

The youth set-up has been in place at the St Lawrence Ground since 2003 and has a strong track record of producing players. Joe Denly was the first to make the grade a year later, while Adam Ball, Chris Piesley and Matt Coles are among the more recent graduates given an opportunity this season.

The 'Rising to the Next Level Strategy' produced by the club details the work going on below the senior level.

Although the majority of the detail on the programme is nothing new, Simon Willis, high performance director at Kent, felt it was important to underline the Academy's role.

"It was really put together to raise awareness to young players in Kent who aspire to play county cricket," he said. "I think the work the Academy does can be taken for granted a bit and we wanted to show what we achieve.

"There are going to be fantastic opportunities in the first-team going forward for our young players, as we've seen with those who are playing at the moment.

"It's about supply and demand. At this stage the first-team requires players to come through the system. Now we're hoping to be getting one player a year into that."

The annual budget of £60,000 has been untouched by the cuts made in the last 12 months. Willis is hopeful of securing extra resources once the club are on a more stable financial footing as he looks to enhance the reputation of the Academy, which has 14 teenagers on its books this summer.

He said: "I want us to be recognised as the best Academy in the country, not just plodding along. It's more than just a job, it's about taking Kent to a different level."

YOUNG GUNS: Adam Ball (above) is the latest player to come out of Kent's Academy, overseen by Simon Willis (right)

TEST: Adrian Quaife-Hobbs will drive an F1 car

MOTORSPORT

Quaife-Hobbs thrilled to be handed Formula One test chance in Spain

THE glittering world of Formula One draws a step closer for Adrian Quaife-Hobbs on Sunday morning when the Tonbridge racer carries out his first test for the Marussia Virgin Racing team.

Quaife-Hobbs, 20, is at Spain's Idiada circuit to evaluate the car driven by Timo Glock and Jérôme d'Ambrosio in the first three rounds of this season's F1 championship.

Competing in the GP3 series for Virgin's sister team, Marussia Manor Racing, Quaife-Hobbs will do approximately 300 kilometres in the car during Sunday's test, which gets under way at 9am.

He will then go on to evaluate the new, updated Virgin car ahead of the remaining Formula One races.

"It's definitely a huge step forward," he said. "Not many people get to test the latest cars, so it's great that they thought of me.

"It's a step up because I've been using the simulator and now I'm doing a straight line test. You have to build up gradually in F1, you don't just go in and have a race.

"Maybe I can go on and do a test with some corners, but for now it's a great way to get involved with F1."

Comparing it to his time in GP3, he said: "It's quite a big jump, a proper race car – everything is done on the limit."

Quaife-Hobbs visited the team's Sheffield workshop on Thursday for a briefing and seat fitting, before flying out to Spain early on Saturday morning.

His own season started in rather stuttering fashion last weekend as mechanical trouble set him back at the GP3 opener in Turkey.

Having qualified 16th-fastest, Quaife-Hobbs had to start race one from the pit lane, eventually coming home 24th and then picking up eight places to finish the second in 16th position.

The series resumes in Barcelona on May 20.

FOOTBALL

Promotion shot offers redemption for Daish

By Steve Tervet
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Picture: DAVE PLUMB

DEFINING MOMENT: Ebbsfleet will look to Michael West (in red) to continue his form in front of goal

BITTER resentment at the manner of Ebbsfleet United's relegation last April will spur manager Liam Daish on for one final time this afternoon as he looks to lead the club back to the top table of non-league football.

The Fleet travel to Farnborough in the Conference South play-off final, with Daish utterly focused on erasing the painful memory of a demotion he still feels was unfair.

Chester City's expulsion from Conference Premier ultimately proved Ebbsfleet's undoing when the three points they gained for winning at the Deva Stadium were chalked off, leaving Daish's side in the drop zone. Now, though, he is just 90 minutes from exorcising those demons as the Fleet prepare for an afternoon of tension and drama in Hampshire.

"I was very determined this season," Daish said. "I felt let down last season, the way we went down, in a way I took personally. The way it was handled, I didn't think we should have gone down and I went into this season determined to rub out that negative.

"I did hold things personally, that's just me, but it's given me a little bit of a drive forward and I've installed that in the players, that I want the club back in Conference Premier.

"The players have done really well this season, they deserve a lot of credit and now I'm asking for another 90 minutes from them."

On the field, the final is almost impossible to call. Ebbsfleet boast the division's best away record, including a smash-and-grab raid to win 2-1 at Farnborough in the first week of the season.

However, the return fixture at Stonebridge Road was a very different tale, with Fleet goalkeeper Preston Edwards becoming a YouTube phenomenon when he was sent off after only 10 seconds. Boro took full advantage, winning 3-0.

Few expected Ebbsfleet to be in with a shout of promotion 12 months ago, when budget restrictions saw Daish's squad disintegrate, but they now stand on the verge of finishing a remarkable season in the most thrilling fashion.

"The hardest part is getting to the final," Daish said. "When you're in the final, that takes care of itself and it's about who performs well on the day. The hard part's done as a manager, in a way, because to get to the final is 44 games. Now we're there, we're looking forward to it and we look fit."

The Fleet's main injury concern is over left-back Derek Duncan, who rolled his ankle and hobbled off halfway through the second leg of their semi-final win over Chelmsford City last Sunday.

In goal, Edwards will be keen make a more lasting contribution against Boro should he return from an ankle problem to replace Daren Hawkes.

Meanwhile, the travelling Kent contingent will be hoping Michael West continues his fine goal-scoring form after netting twice in each leg of the semi-final.

FOOTBALL

Ambitious Darts chief eyeing play-off charge

Picture: SPORTSHOTZ.CO.UK

ESTABLISHED: Dartford are enjoying life in Conference South

DARTFORD chairman Dave Skinner believes the club should be pushing for a play-off spot next season following a successful debut campaign in Conference South.

The Darts made a shaky start following their promotion from the Ryman Premier Division, but turned their results around after Christmas and finished comfortably in mid-table, above early-season leaders Bromley.

After embarking on decent runs in both the FA Cup and FA Trophy, Dartford's penchant for knockout football came to a head when they beat Bromley to lift the Kent Senior Cup at Princes Park.

Skinner praised manager Tony Burman for his efforts and said the club would continue to set its sights high.

"Every year we try to improve," he said. "We finished 10th this season so now we want to get sixth or above, which would mean play-offs.

"Tony does everything with the team so he should take all the credit. We give him a budget, we tell him to stay within it, and he performs miracles."

With average home gates of 1,171, the Darts were the division's most-watched club and Skinner paid tribute to the supporters.

"We managed to end up with [an average of] four more than Woking, who are traditionally a club with a big following," he said. "That was very pleasing, particularly when we lost a lot of fans for the re-arranged games when it snowed."

Picture: DAVE COULDRIDGE

DELIGHT: Tonbridge Angels celebrate promotion

FOOTBALL

Tonbridge join the Conference party after thrilling play-off win

KENT'S contingent of Conference football clubs now stands at six after Tonbridge Angels came through a dramatic play-off final to seal promotion from the Ryman League last weekend.

A record crowd of 2,411 packed into Longmead Stadium to see the Angels overcome Lowestoft Town 4-3 and book their place in Conference South for the first time in the club's history.

Tonbridge manager Tommy Warrilow can now look forward to Kent derbies against Dartford and Dover Athletic next season, although he knows there is much work to be done if the Angels are to consolidate their new status.

"Hand on heart, it's going to be a hard season," he said. "What we can't do is start going stupid with our money, trying to compete out of our depth,

"No disrespect, but over the course of the season, [Dover and Dartford] are both bigger clubs. We can match them [on the pitch], but we don't get a thousand people here. We need to get the crowds up and make it a fortress."

Ade Olorunda opened the scoring for Tonbridge and Danny Walder then bagged a brace before half-time to put them 3-1 in front, but Lowestoft roared back to level the final at 3-3. However, Tonbridge had the final word when Lewis Taylor struck the winner with nine minutes remaining, sparking wild celebrations all around Longmead.

Chairman Steve Churcher enthused: "The crowd were brilliant, there's fantastic potential here and hopefully by moving it up to the next level, we can realise some of that. I've got no fears about Conference South because I think it's where we should be."

BOXING

Underdog Woolford in the mood for title fight

SCOTT Woolford is confident he can inflict the first defeat of Ryan Toms' professional career when the pair fight for the Southern Area light-middleweight title today.

The 27-year-old, from Ramsgate, admitted he goes into the contest at Bethnall Green's York Hall as the outsider, but insists he is fully equipped to bring the belt back to Kent.

"It's something I've always wanted, so I'm putting everything into it," Woolford said. "I'm in good shape and there will be no excuses on Sunday. I know this fight's going to be tough but I've had two good wins recently and we think we can pull something off.

"He's unbeaten, so he's probably the favourite, but I've had much bigger fights and just come unstuck at the final hurdle.

"I'm going to look to set a nice fast pace and make him work. I don't want him to get into a rhythm because he boxes well when he's settled.

"I've got to take the gameplay away from him early in the fight and hope to break him down, round-by-round."

Woolford's preparations for the fight included a four-day training camp in Southampton, where he sparred with Tony Hill, Ryan Barrett and Michael Lomax. His last outing was a points victory over Jay Morris at Medway Park in March.

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